



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 7, Issue #6

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

21 June 2012

### *Pest Patrol Hotline*

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### *News from Above the Lakes*

No news to report this week.

### *News from Below the Lakes*

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that “everything down [his] way has been quiet this week in regards to insects. Growers are working on trying to get a handle on weeds since they have been able to get back in the fields this week. I checked several fields of early May planted soybeans this morning [21 June] and in some fields I was finding kudzu bug adults in low numbers spread throughout the fields and also saw some very early stage immatures scattered throughout the field. The beans are not flowering at this time but are approximately 24 inches tall.” Drake Perrow, a producer and consultant near Cameron, SC, reported this morning that he has already observed some spider mite infestations in some cotton fields. This is an early report of the arthropod in cotton, particularly after all of the rain we had recently which will often hinder building populations of spider mites. Also, I have noticed some very heavy populations of aphids in very young cotton, and sporadic reports of aphid infestations have been coming in for the last several weeks. More on that below in “Aphids in Cotton Early and Heavy”.

### *News from the Piedmont/Upstate*

No news to report this week.

### *Cotton Situation*

As of 18 June 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 98% planted, very close to where we were in 2011 at 97% and the 5-yr average of 99%. About 17% of the crop is squaring, ahead of where we were last year at 8%, with the 5-yr average at 11%. Conditions of the cotton crop are described as 10% excellent, 69% good, 19% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. **The crop looks excellent**, but we need more rain now. Soil moisture levels in the state are described as 2% very short, 15% short, and 76% adequate, and 7% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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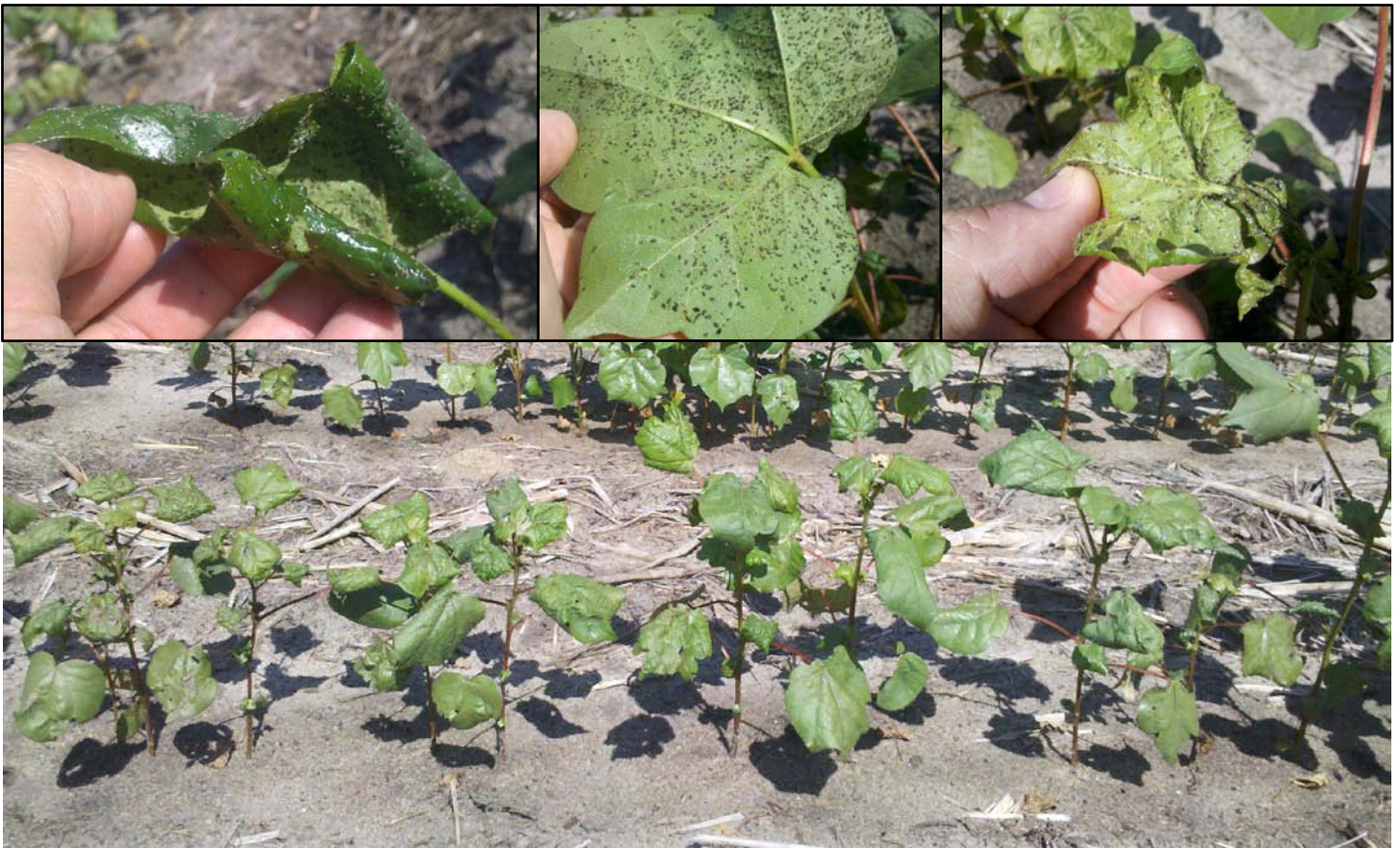
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### **Aphids in Cotton Early and Heavy**

I noticed some stunted looking plants in one of my test fields at the Edisto Research and Education Center on Tuesday, so I looked at them closer. They were absolutely covered in aphids. The plants were stunted and drooping because of the feeding injury from the aphids. Honeydew was covering the leaves and was actually wetting the ground beneath the plants! We put out a test yesterday with recommended products and will report back on the preliminary results. I typically do not get too concerned about aphids that are on larger plants, but these plants are still small and very susceptible to injury and yield loss under this pressure, in my opinion.



Treat only when high numbers of aphids are severely infesting plants, populations are building, and the margins of terminal leaves are drooping. Aphids will cause more damage when plants are suffering from lack of moisture, and there are few signs of natural control agents. If there is evidence of widespread parasitism (dead aphids, tan colored and swollen in appearance) and/or fungal pathogens (diseased aphid bodies have a grayish-green colored fuzzy appearance) an insecticide should not be applied. Avoid unnecessary insecticide applications to *Bt* cotton in June or July, as subsequent reductions in beneficial populations can result in damage from bollworm and fall armyworm.

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### APHIDS

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
acetamiprid		0.025-0.05		12 hr	28 d	Ovicidal activity on caterpillars
Assail 30 SG	1.5-2.5 oz		-			
Assail 70 WP	0.6-1.1 oz		-			
Intruder 70 WSP	0.6-1.1 oz		-			
imidacloprid		0.031-0.0625		12 hr	14 d	
Trimax Pro 4.44 SC	0.9-1.8 oz		71-142			
Couraze 4 F	1.0-2.0 oz		64-128			
Couraze 2 F	2.0-4.0 oz		32-64			
Admire Pro 4.6	0.9-1.7 oz		75-142			
thiamethoxam		0.031-0.05		12 hr	21 d	5 oz limit for season
Centric 40 WG	1.25-2.0 oz		-			
flonicamid		0.044-0.088		12 hr	30 d	
Carbine 50 WG	1.4-2.8 oz		-			
clothianidin		0.05-0.1		12 hr	21 d	12 oz limit for season
Belay 2.13	3.0-6.0 oz		21.3-42.6			

### Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

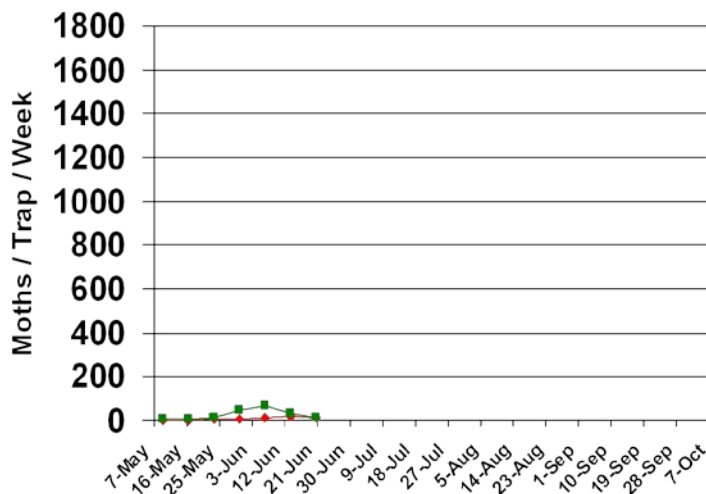


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as

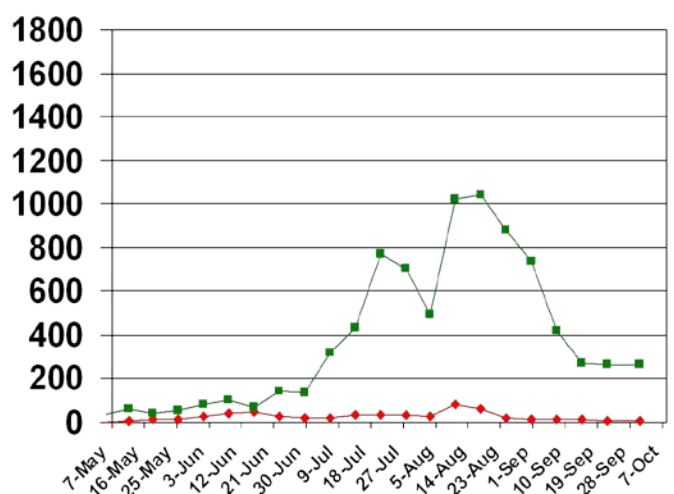
an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011**



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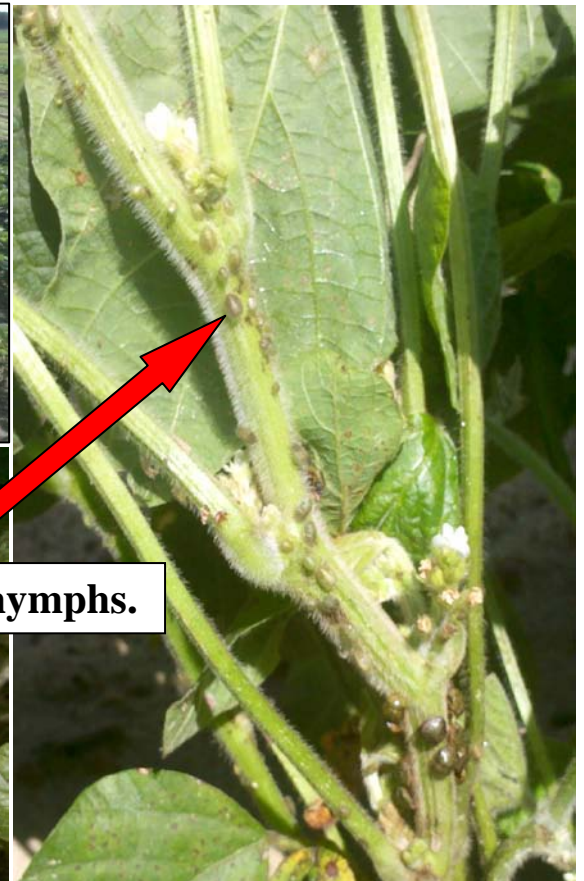


## Soybean Situation

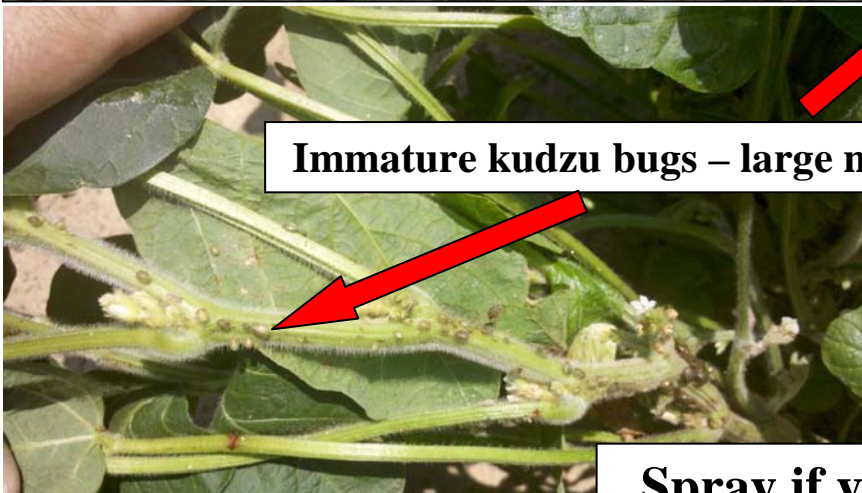
As of 18 June 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 84% planted, equal to where we were last year and slightly ahead of the 5-yr average of 80%. About 66% of planted soybeans have emerged, close to where we were last year at 70% and almost the same as the 5-yr average of 65%. Conditions of the soybean crop are described as 5% excellent, 80% good, 13% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

Late instars of the kudzu bug are now very abundant in our early-planted (20 April) soybeans here at the Edisto REC. I think that our earlier-planted soybeans will have time to support two generations of this species this season. We only experienced one complete generation in soybean last year, our first year having the species in large numbers over considerable acres. We are obtaining some very valuable information from our maturity group/planting date study that also has an insecticide protected (or no protection) as a factor.



**Immature kudzu bugs – large nymphs.**



**Spray if you see immature kudzu bug numbers like this in your field**

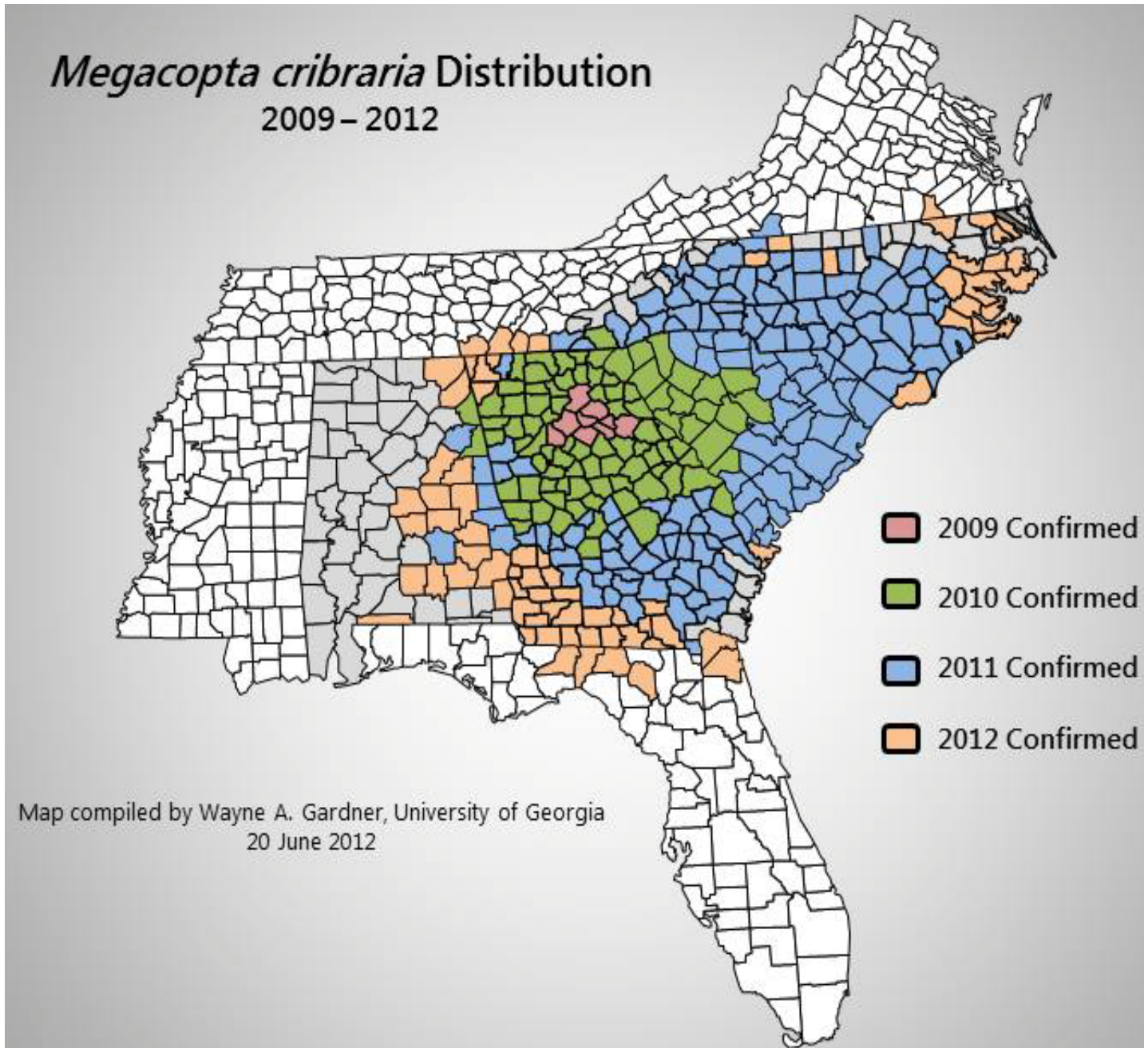
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Below is the latest map of the distribution of the kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, in the Southeast. Many thanks to Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA) for updating and supplying this map regularly. There are **7 states** now reporting this invasive species. In order of appearance of the pest: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, and Tennessee. Many more counties were added since the last updated map. Georgia and North Carolina will soon join South Carolina as being completely infested with this species.



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Our recommendations for managing kudzu bugs in soybeans that were put together during the winter months based on our experiences last year can be found at:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/pdfs/kudzu\\_bug\\_insecticide\\_soybeans.pdf](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/pdfs/kudzu_bug_insecticide_soybeans.pdf)

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this invasive pest:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>



Eggs

Nymphs

Adults

### **Pest Management Handbook - 2012**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

### **Need More Information?**

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist