

July 1, 2005

Light Trap Operators,

It is that time of year again in which we are all interested in light trap captures for signs of troublesome pests moving into the area. Normally we keep a close eye on the moth flights, but now days; we are noting a new pest emerging in cotton, the **STINK BUG**. Stink bugs, including brown stink bug, *Euschistus servus* (Say), and green stink bug, *Acrosternum hilare* (Say), have increased their pest status on cotton, *Gossypium hirsutum* L. in recent years placing their overall U. S. pest rankings at third and fourth, respectively (Willrich et al. 2004 and Willrich et al. 2005). These increases have been attributed to a decrease in the use of broad-spectrum insecticides, an increase usage of target-specific insecticides, adoption of Bollgard cotton, and eradication of the boll weevil, *Anthonomous grandis grandis* Boheman (Greene and Herzog 1999, Leonard et al. 1999, Roberts 1999).

Stink bug feeding may cause significant boll injury leading to the abscission of small bolls and reduced yield, as well as compromised lint quality and seed germination potential (Barbour et al. 1990, Greene et al. 1999, Willrich et al. 2004). Minimal research on these insect pests has been conducted in North Carolina, leaving a void in crucial information necessary for development of management systems for cotton producers of the area.

The type of information required to help improve management decisions is the movement of stink bugs through the landscape. In order to gain this information, we would like to track the number of stink bugs collected at light traps. These counts can be made at the same time as the moth counts and should require minimal time. Enclosed is an ID page to help identify the types of stink bugs that may be caught in the light traps. A majority of the stink bugs caught should either be the green stink bug or the brown stink bug. However, you may occasionally find a spined soldier bug, *Podisus maculiventris* (Say), (which is a beneficial) or a rice stink bug, *Oebalus pugnax* (Fabricius), (which is commonly found in grasses). Stink bug counts can be give along with the moth counts to your local extension agent. If you have any ID questions or any questions at all, feel free to contact either your local extension agent or myself. I would like to thank you in advance for your help as we work together to find solutions to this stink bug problem.

Thank you,

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