

MOTH TRAP CATCH UPDATE 1ST WEEK OF AUGUST 2016

Tim Reed, Ron Smith, Alana Jacobson

Cotton Bollworm (CBW) moth trap catches increased significantly in Macon, Elmore and Limestone counties during the 1st week of August. There was a noticeable decline in CBW numbers in Baldwin county (but numbers rebounded the 2nd week of August to 549). CBW larvae have required treatment in a few fields of soybeans planted behind wheat in Lawrence and Colbert counties with some fields having areas with densities as high as one per sweep. Initial treatments for CBW in these infested fields were made on August 9. Observations in one field revealed the CBW larvae were feeding on the newest foliage and on blooms. The Lawrence county fields that required treatment had large CBW larvae that were derived from eggs deposited by moths about July 23. CBW moth trap catches at the Belle Mina Station located about 22 miles away had started to increase at this time.

Tobacco Budworm (TBW) moth numbers increased significantly the 1st week in August in Elmore county and moderately in Macon county. A small increase in trapped TBW moths occurred in Baldwin and Henry counties. TBW moth numbers were down some in Autauga and Limestone counties.

Soybean looper (SBL) moth trap catches increased significantly at 3 locations and remained extremely high at the Baldwin county site during the first week of August. Traps have been checked for the second week of August in Limestone, Elmore and Baldwin counties and SBL catches for this period remain high in these counties. Residual SBL insecticides have been going out with fungicides in Baldwin county during the 1st two weeks of August. During 2012 when SBL infestations were widespread in the Tennessee Valley (especially the western half) initial sprays were made the first week in September, about a month after SBL sprays started in Baldwin county. Regional agronomist Rudy Yates reports low SBL moth trap catches at his Perry and Hale county sites through the 2nd week of August (7 per location). However Rudy had a high SBL moth trap catch in Marengo county (271 for the period 8/7-8/15) and moderate numbers of SBL moths in Dallas County (51 for the period 8/5-8/15). These high numbers of SBL moths in

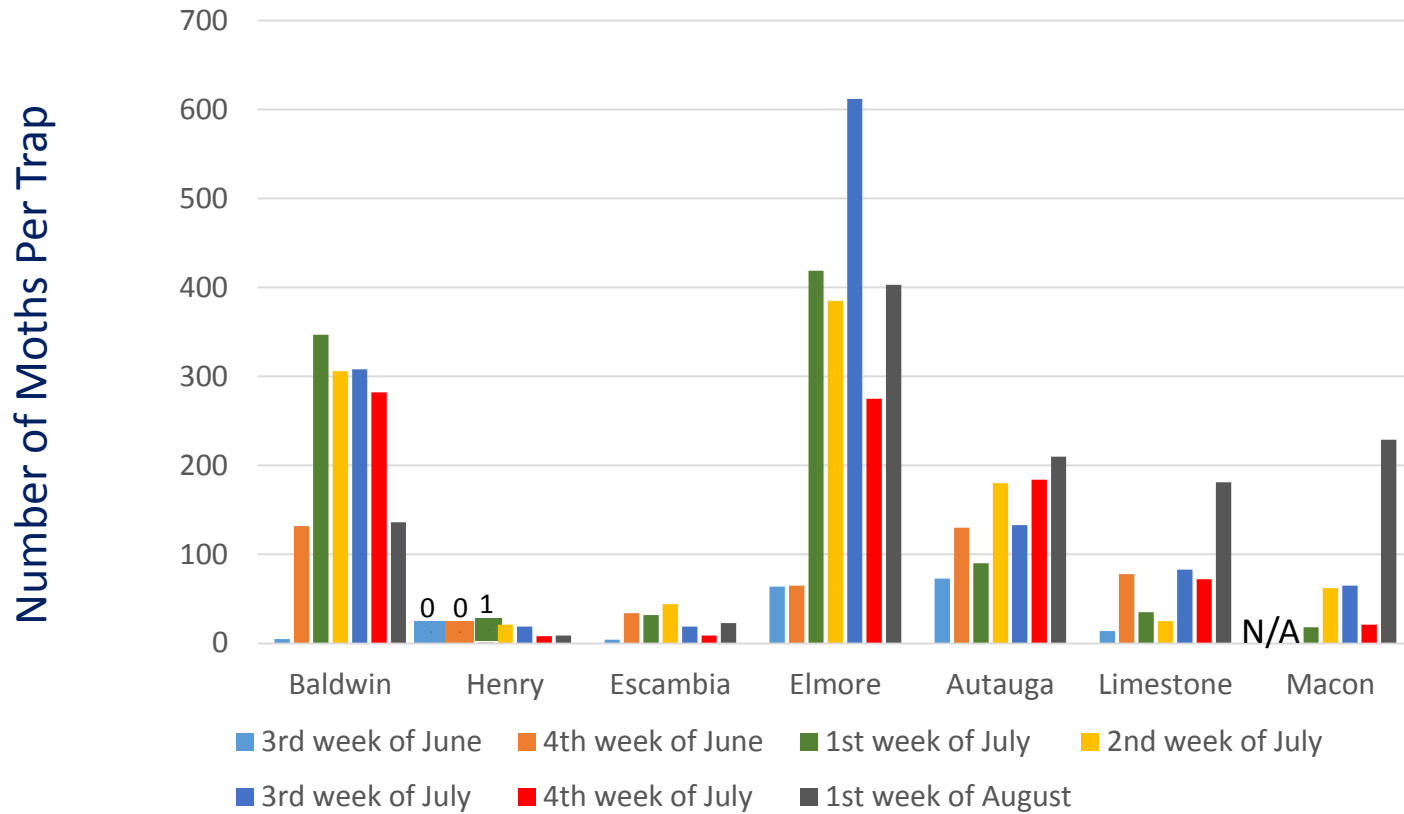
numerous locations indicate that soybeans should be monitored closely for a possible increase in SBL larvae as eggs and small larvae exceed the level that beneficial arthropods can feed upon. Wheat beans are going to be vulnerable to defoliation by SBL for the next month or so. Presently in wheat beans in north Alabama there are reports of a mixture of worms in many fields that include SBL, FAW, CBW, green cloverworms and velvetbean caterpillars. Treatments are planned for foliage feeders if the worms appear capable of causing 20% defoliation. Sampling of soybeans with a drop cloth at 4 central Alabama locations by Ron Smith on August 15 showed densities of SBL larvae to average 3 to 4 per row foot. Regional crops agronomist Chisty Hicks reported 2 SBL per row foot in some R4 soybeans in Lee county. Most of these larvae found in central Alabama were first instars. Sweep nets may not pick up these very small SBL larvae since they tend to be on the lower part of the plant.

Fall Armyworms (FAW) were reported to be feeding on soybeans in Blount county on August 13 and required treatment. Extremely large numbers of FAW larvae were observed also in pasture/hayland adjacent to the FAW-infested soybeans in Blount county.

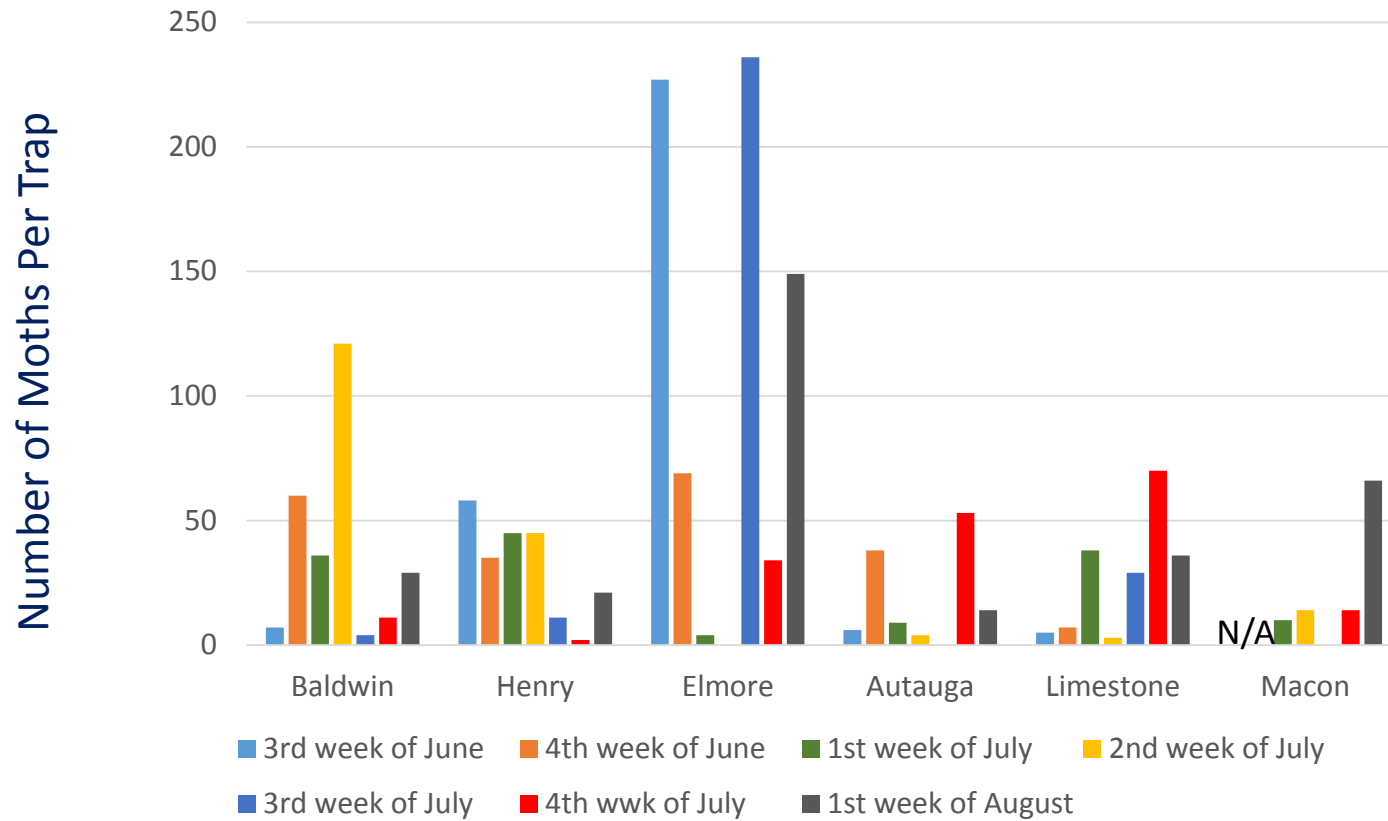


Cursor down to see location activity.

Cotton Bollworm Moths per Trap by Location, 2016



Tobacco Budworm Moths per Trap by Location, 2016



Soybean Looper Moths per Trap by Location, 2016

