



INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

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CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

We continue to be thankful for the subsoil water which was available at planting this season and the fairly good rain received about three weeks ago in many areas of the Coastal Bend. It has allowed production of our three major crops (corn, cotton and sorghum). In fact sorghum production seems to be fair to good depending upon planting date, subsoil moisture, level of weed control, and amount of rain received. Sorghum harvest is underway at this time. Even corn has produced grain-filled ears with some yield potential. The level of aflatoxin that might be in corn is a concern, but might not be excessive if we go through the drying process fairly quickly. Cotton yield potential looks good in early-planted fields which received the one good rain. Most all fruiting positions were set. Fields which have reached 3 or less NAWF (nodes above upper most position-1 white flower) in most cases have been shedding fruit the past couple of weeks as there is not enough moisture to hold all the bolls. Rapid opening of bolls is expected once the process begins.

Insect pests remain relatively low with headworms still being reported in late sorghum along with some rice stink bugs and a few verde plant bugs (*Creontiades*). To date, bollworm survival in cotton has been low with few treatments needed on non-Bt varieties.

When significant rainfall does come be aware that fall armyworm (FAW) will probably be a problem in pastures as rapid plant growth occurs. The most likely outbreak of FAW will be in highly fertilized improved hay meadows and pastures. It is common for the FAW female moths to deposit large numbers of egg masses where grass growth is rapid and lush. FAW pheromone trap catches have increased in recent weeks as well. RDP

COTTON WORKSHOP - FOCUS ON HARVEST PREPARATION

The third in a series of Gulf Coast Cotton Management Workshops will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center on Hwy. 44 just west of the Corpus Christi Airport. The focus of this workshop will be the "Preparing the Crop for Harvest." This series offers producers the opportunity to ask questions and interact with industry representatives, consultants, AgriLife Extension and Research personnel. With cotton prices currently at record levels, it is important to fine tune cotton production needs to be as efficient as possible to take advantage of the excellent prices. This workshop is designed to provide local cotton growers with tools to help them be successful in the growing season, according to Dr. Juan Landivar, Director of the Corpus Christi AgriLife Research and Extension Center.

The workshop will begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude by 5:00 p.m. Topics will include a discussion on Environmental and Physiological Processes that Impact Fiber Quality Development led by Mourad Krifa, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Fiber Science, The University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel. Dr. Krifa will also be discussing fiber development and micronaire variation - the key to cotton fiber use-value. The discussion on the expected impact of drought stress on fiber quality will be of particular interest this year due to our below normal rainfall during the growing season.

An online Cotton Defoliation management tool available at the Crop Weather Program website will be discussed and demonstrated, while agronomic considerations for improving the final stages of this cotton crop will be reviewed. In addition, marketing updates and risk management strategies will be discussed by local Extension Economists. RDP

COTTON CROP MATURING RAPIDLY

Cotton is opening rapidly now on the early planted crop. Generally, potential yield varies from fairly low

to fairly good. Insect activity remains low in the older fields.

The Creontiades plant bug (verde plant bug previously referred as the green mired) is damaging late cotton near the inland bays, and cotton in these areas should be scouted to determine treatment need. Susceptible fields are those that are now in early bloom through about the 5th week of bloom or have not reached 350 heat units beyond 5 NAWF. Rule-of-thumb for treatment include finding 15 to 25 bugs per 100 sweeps with a 15-inch net and by examination of thumb sized bolls similar to inspection for stink bugs. Cut the bolls open and examine the inner boll wall for evidence of feeding through the boll wall, the presence of wart-like formations, or stained lint. The treatment threshold used for stink bugs of 20% evidence of feeding by the verde plant bug should be about right for treatment need. RDP



LATE PLANTED SORGHUM INSECT DAMAGE

Late sorghum should be scouted for fall armyworm and corn earworm. Where these are deep in the whorl, it is questionable if enough control can be achieved or even if one per plant will cause economic damage. The plants will be ragged up by their feeding but these plants should grow out of the problem. On the other hand, where fall armyworm numbers exceed several per plant and are

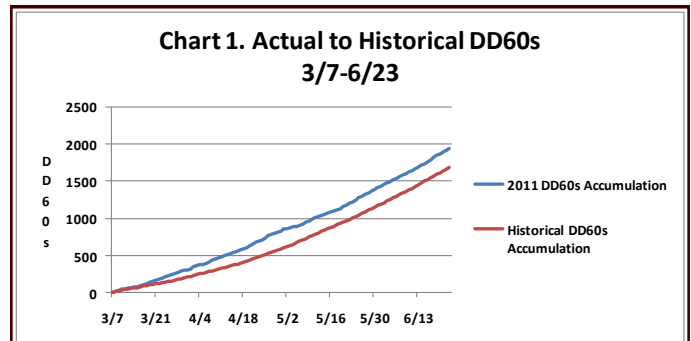
feeding all over the leaves treatments need to be considered if you are going to try to make the crop. Lannate is the insecticide of choice for fall armyworm since pyrethroids are not providing control. RDP

PHYTOGEN TAILGATE

On Thursday, July 21st the Texas Agrilife Extension Service and Phytogen cottonseed will be hosting a meeting and field day at the Texas Agrilife Research and Extension Center located at Corpus Christi. The program will begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 1:15 pm. Activities will include viewing current and future Phytogen cottonseed varieties, update on the Enlist™ Weed Control System which is a new herbicide-tolerant trait technology from Dow AgroSciences, and a presentation on Transform™ WG which is a new insecticide for controlling aphids, whiteflies, and cotton fleahoppers. DDF

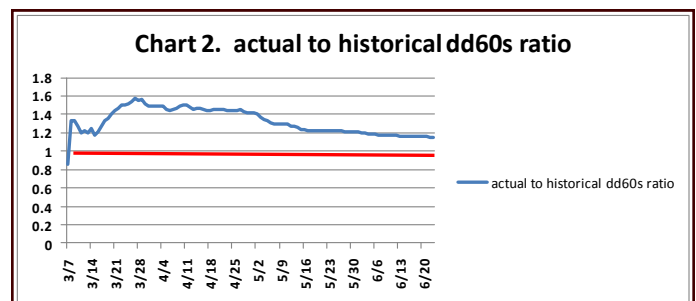
ACCUMULATED DD60s FOR COTTON

During the period of (3/7-6/23) 1,935 DD60s were accumulated compared to the historical DD60 accumulation of 1,686 (Chart 1). Information obtained from the Nueces County crop weather station 31 at <http://cwp.tamu.edu> DDF



ACTUAL TO HISTORICAL DD60s RATIO

For the period of 3/7 to 6/23 the actual to historical DD60s ratio is 1.15 or the cumulative heat units is 20% higher than normal (Chart 2). When the blue line is above the red line this means we are warmer than normal and when the blue line is below the red line, this means we are cooler than normal. Information obtained from <http://cwp.tamu.edu> DDF



INTERESTING INSECTS

<http://tinyurl.com/42rfzxs> *Salivating over wheat plants may net Hessian flies big meal or death.* June 14, 2011.



The interaction between a Hessian fly's saliva and the wheat plant it is attacking may be the key to whether the pest eats like a king or dies like a starving pauper, according to a study done at

Purdue University. "The insect induces or suppresses susceptibility in the plant," said Christie Williams, a research scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and a Purdue associate professor of entomology. "It's not that the fly larva is making holes and retrieving nutrients as once thought. The larva is doing something chemically to change the plant." The next step in the research is to determine which genes are responsible for turning on wheat defenses and how those could be activated to respond to virulent flies. RDP

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We're on the Web!

Newsletter available at <http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~rparker/>

Pest Management information available
at <http://txaac.org/>



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