



## *Pest Cast*

*The Row Crops IPM Newsletter for the LRGV, a cooperative project of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cotton & Grain Producers of the lower Rio Grande Valley*

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Editor

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**General Situation:** Continued hot and dry. Maybe some rain this weekend.

**Cotton:** Dryland fields were blooming out and irrigated fields were marching onward to maturity this week. The light rains of a few weeks ago appeared to have helped increase boll size in those fields where more than ½ of rain fell. Blooming was either over or very near so in most dryland fields this week. Nodes above white flower (NAWF) counts ranged from 0 in most fields to 5 in a few fields. There were blooms left in many fields, but the blooms were in the second and third positions on fruiting branches and thus less likely to have any impact on final yield unless we get some soaking rain soon. Insect and mite activity in dryland fields was nearly over also. Watch for increased open bolls soon.

Irrigated fields were maturing with more fields showing NAWF counts ranging from 2 to 5. A few fields had NAWF counts ranging from 6 to 9. Earlier planted fields had the lowest counts and the youngest fields, and those with good growth, the highest. Insect and mite activity was up and down depending on field location and maturity. Spidermites continued to be the number pest of irrigated fields this week. But, some fields which had economic levels of mites last week (and were sprayed) had much lower counts this week. Other fields were treated for the first time for mites this week. This season probably saw the largest mite problems in cotton for many years.

Verde plant bugs were on the increase in eastern Cameron county this week. They were especially high north of San Benito and just south of Bayview. When Verde bugs can be easily seen in a field, the numbers may be higher than you think since they are hard to find when they occur at low infestation levels. Verde bugs are very secretive and can move rapidly once disturbed.

Cotton fleahoppers were in very large numbers this week in many fields, both dryland and irrigated. Counts ranging from 0 to 4 and 5 fleahoppers per 100 plants were observed across many fields checked this week. Obviously, the dryland fields and most irrigated fields should not need any control measures for fleas. However, very late planted fields which have not begun to flower or have just initiated flowering should be checked to determine if fleas have moved in above the threshold of 15 to 25 fleahoppers per 100 plants.

Aphids were reported on the increase in a few fields following treatments for mites. However, most fields had low to no aphids reported this week as beneficials, particularly lady beetles were doing a good job of control.

Whiteflies increased - both in acres infested and numbers per plant - this week. Where control actions were made, control appears to have been good. Not waiting until the field is covered with nymphs and adults before making initial applications for whiteflies is critical to good whitefly management.

LRGV

**BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION**

YTD	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00192	.00674	.17000	.11866	.24935	.31888	1.15456

Week Ending	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/3/11	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.48544	0
4/10/11	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.37552	0
4/17/11	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.88875	6.47392
4/24/11	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
5/1/11	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
05/8/11	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
05/15/11	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
05/22/11	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
05/29/11	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931

**Traps inspected for current week: 47,007**

**Grain Sorghum and Corn:** Grain sorghum harvesting increased this week and many more fields were observed to have been prepared for harvest with herbicide. No insect activity was reported for either corn or sorghum this week.

***New Extension Plant Pathologist***

Dr. Greta Schuster, Extension Plant Pathologist has been assigned recently to the Valley on a part time basis. Dr. Schuster is based at the Research and Extension Center at Weslaco. Dr. Schuster is a veteran plant pathologist and is looking forward to getting to work with growers in the Valley. Her phone number at the Research and Extension Center is 956-968-5581.

A message from Cotton & Grain Producers' Association  
 Webb Wallace, Executive Director

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