



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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We are going to be publishing the *Pest Cast* newsletters again this year. This year's edition will be slightly different than in the past. First, you will note that both the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cotton and Grain Sorghum Producers' Association, Lower Rio Grande Valley logos are displayed at the top of the page. Both organizations are in partnership in producing the newsletter this year.

Second, we will be putting information in the newsletter similar to previous editions, but our editor will be John Norman, former IPM Agent for the Rio Grande Valley, who has agreed to edit the newsletter and to be one of several contributors of the information contained in the document. We plan to make *Pest Cast* a weekly publication starting in late March through the summer crop season.

Since this is our first *Pest Cast* of this New Year, we will be asking each of you to help us revise our current mailing list; both

regular postage paid or email addresses.

We will send an emailed version for free and a mailed version for a \$10.00 fee to cover the postage costs for the summer season.

There will be a card attached to this newsletter on which you can fill in your name, address, etc. and return with \$10.00 to the Extension office in Weslaco. The emailed version will have colored content while the printed (mailed) version will be in black and white only due to the high cost of printing anything in color.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, then you can decline by either returning an email or by not sending in the tear-off form. If you have an email address and wish to get the newsletter sent via email instead of U.S. mail, then follow email instructions on the back. Additionally, if you know of someone who wishes to have their name added to the mailing list, email us their information or give us a call. We will be happy to make arrangements with them to add their names to the mailing list.

General Situation:

Most everyone at the January 19th Pre-Plant Conference held at the Research and Extension Center in Weslaco were all smiles because of the recent rains which fell over a large portion of the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) on January 14-16. And of course, the prospect of \$1.00 plus per pound for cotton lint this season. Most farms from about the mid-Valley area eastward and from Brownsville to north of Raymondville received from 1.25 to 5 inches of badly needed rain. Areas in the western portion of the LRGV, like the McCook area and others north or south of there received from 0.25 to 0.6 inches of rain according to reports heard at the Pre-Plant meeting. Obviously, the folks in the western part of the Valley could use some more rain if they are going to have a chance at a good cotton or grain sorghum crop. Field planting moisture in the eastern half of the LRGV should be very good for this year. Planting of grain sorghum reportedly commenced in early February and cotton along with sorghum will continue until about the end of March. Cotton, grain sorghum and corn all appear to have good forward contract prices. Prices being what they are at this time point to a mixed bag of cotton and grain sorghum plantings. Cotton acres could be up from the last couple of years (maybe in the 120,000 to 150,000 acre range) and sorghum down slightly (maybe in the 325,000-400,000 acre range). But changing prices and weather no doubt will be the final factor in actual planting decisions.

Extreme cold, for the LRGV that is, hit the week of February 1 and again this week. Lows in the mid to upper 20's were experienced with temperatures remaining below freezing for over 24 hours noted in some locales. This week's lows were not quite so low, but still freezing in most areas of the Valley. No effect on cotton and grain except for possible fields of grain which were reported to have been planted in the western part of the LRGV. Could help with boll weevil eradication by killing any volunteer or old regrowth cotton which was supporting a few weevils as reported by the Boll Weevil Eradication folks. It did not do any good for our winter vegetables, citrus and sugarcane. Damage assessments will have to wait a while before we know how that came out.

Contact Info

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Pest Cast Newsletter Subscription

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- E-Mail (Free of Charge) - Send an e-mail to **d12south@ag.tamu.edu** and type “*Subscribe to Pest Cast*” in the subject line.
- U.S. Mail - (\$10.00 payable to **AgriLife Extension Acct#218312**) send this card along with \$10.00 to: Pest Cast, 2401 East Highway 83, Weslaco, TX 78596

Mail newsletter to: Name: _____
 Address: _____
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If you have any questions or problems, call us at 956-968-5581, e-mail us at d12south@ag.tamu.edu or come by our office located at Business 83 and FM1015 in Weslaco.