

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

John W. Norman, Jr.
Editor

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General Situation: The weather this week was a continuation of the last several weeks' conditions: Hot, dry and mostly very windy. No rain and none in sight. Despite those desperate sounding conditions, most summer crops were fairing reasonably well. But, field conditions will continue to deteriorate if it does not rain within the next two to four weeks.

Cotton: Cotton was growing well in most fields. Leaf scarring was apparent all across the Valley this week. The very strong winds along with blowing sand ragged cotton everywhere. Planted acres increased slightly this week. The Boll Weevil Eradication program reported 190,000+, cotton acres in the LRGV this week. Squaring cotton was more common this week. A few fields were being replanted, but most had acceptable stands.

Insect activity increased this week. Last week we found very few aphids, fleahoppers or mites. This week we found increasing aphid populations in most fields. While most fields did not have treatable levels of aphids, reports were received about a few fields being sprayed for heavy aphids in scattered locations this week. Cotton fleahopper infestations were up this week. A few fields were at or above economic thresholds of 15 to 25 fleahoppers per 100 plants. Fleahopper reports from most areas indicated that primarily adults were being found. A number of other fields had low numbers of fleas and should be monitored at least weekly to determine infestation levels and damage.

A small number of fields showed very light spidermite colonies along field margins. The recent and constant dry winds have no doubt increased movement of the mites from old host plants to cotton. The sand and silt along field roads blowing into cotton fields can be the carrier for the mites. The speed of the wind and quantity of soil blown around over the last two weeks could lead to infestations anywhere in cotton fields.

A relatively new pest to cotton in the Valley was observed in a few fields scattered around the Valley this week. Green stinkbugs, not the rice stinkbug or the now-named Verde plant bug, were observed in few fields this week. Generally considered seed feeders, the green stinkbugs were found in the terminals of just-squaring cotton. The observations of the stinkbugs may not mean anything to insect management in the Valley. But, we do know that in the southeast U.S. cotton producing states that stinkbugs have been serious pests of cotton for some time. We will keep you posted if any more are found and if any larger, crop threatening numbers are detected. A few tarnished plant bugs were also reported in scattered fields. No significant infestations were observed.

Reports of thrips in cotton were received this week were again received. Many fields of onions have been harvested and are no longer sources for thrips. But, thrips were present and

moving from onions to cotton. There are a few later fields of onions left and anyone with cotton nearby should check those fields carefully until the onions are harvested.

LRGV

BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00335	1.17002	.25052	.21873	.41357	0	6.47392

Week Ending	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/3/11	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.88875	6.47392
4/10/11	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	0	6.47392

Traps inspected for current week: 40,874

Grain Sorghum and Corn: Both crops appeared to making good headway this week. A few more fields showed increasing drought conditions with twisted plants in the early morning hours. However, even in most of the eastern Valley dryland areas sorghum was holding on and numerous fields were pushing heads. A rain on the dryland sorghum within the next week would certainly make a decent yield a reality. No reports of injurious insect activity was reported.

Most of the corn was planted to irrigated fields and was doing very well. Good growth and some fields already at four to five feet tall were observed this week. No reports of insect or mite pest concerns in field corn were received this week.

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Contact Info

Pest Cast Newsletter
 Texas AgriLife Extension Service
 South District 12
 2401 East Highway 83
 Weslaco, TX 78596
 (956) 968-5581
 E-mail: d12south@ag.tamu.edu