



## 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:** More hot and dry weather this week. Seems like rain is maybe a week away. This week no rain is predicted.

**Cotton:** Most of the irrigated cotton was doing well with plenty of squares, blooms and bolls. Nodes above white flower (NAWF) counts ranged from 2 to 9 in irrigated fields this week. Bolls were more numerous and increasing in size rapidly. A very small number of normally opened bolls were observed in dryland cotton this week. More are on the way.

Insect and mite pest problems were higher in some irrigated fields this week. Spidermites were much higher this week than during the last two weeks. Numerous fields were sprayed for mites. The current weather conditions continue to help the mites survive.

Dryland fields continued to be dry. The rains of nearly 2 weeks ago helped where they fell. Those fields which received about 3/4 to 1 inch appeared brighter green this week and boll size was increasing. However, most fields received little to no rain, more plant yellowing was observed and blooms in the terminals could be seen this week. NAWF counts ranged from 0 to 5 in most fields this week. A few fields had higher counts and were still squaring.

Reports were received of Verde plant bugs being found by using a vacuum sampler in the eastern part of Cameron County in some dryland fields on Wednesday of this week. A small number of Verde plant bug were also observed in a few fields in eastern Willacy county. Verde plant bug is the new name for *Creontiades sp.* plant bugs we have mentioned in the past. Most of the bugs were found on weeds near one field, but a few were pulled from the cotton. Most were adults. Feeding damage to some small bolls was reported.

Whiteflies were sprayed in a few fields in southern Hidalgo County this week. Whiteflies, like spidermites, really love stressed cotton. The last 5 to 8 weeks of dry and hot weather have provided many pests just what they want.

LRGV

### BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00194	.00740	.16775	.12534	.25231	.33815	1.24723

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
05/22/2011	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319

**Traps inspected for current week: 46,620**

**Grain Sorghum and Corn:** Sorghum was drying down and a few reports of grain being harvested or being sprayed with herbicide to prepare it for harvest were received this week. Midge were reported in a few more fields of later planted grain. Blooming grain needs constant monitoring for midge from now on.

Reports of banks grass mites in seedcorn were received this week. Just like in cotton, mites in corn like the plant-stressing weather conditions the Valley has been experiencing.

**Field Day**

There will be a Grain Sorghum and Corn field day on June 2, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at Fike Park, East of Edinburg. There is a flyer at the end of this newsletter which gives details of the event. We hope all who can will attend.

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

Much thanks are due to our sponsors of the IPM newsletter. However, we have not reached our funding goal yet for this year. If you are able to contribute \$100 dollars or more, your name will be listed on this page as a sponsor of the 2011 IPM newsletter. Please send your contributions to: Cotton & Grain Producers, P.O. Box 531622, Harlingen, Texas 78553.

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**Rio Farms, Inc. and Fike Farms**  
**Grain Sorghum and Corn Field Day**

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, USDA-  
ARS, Fike Farms, and Rio Farms, Inc. Cooperating

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2011

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Fike Park, East of Edinburg

Directions: From HW 107 and FM 493, go 1.2 m west on HW 107, turn north on Skinner Road. Fike Park is 1/4 mile north on the west side of the road.

Program

- Tour Grain Sorghum and Corn Variety Test Plots
- Corn & Grain Sorghum Market Update
- Comments from Local Grain Buyers
- FSA Updates
- Plant Diseases Update
- Crop Insects Update
- Laws and Regulations

TDA and CCA CEU's will be provided  
Evening meal at Fike Park.  
We hope your schedule will allow you to attend.