



## 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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### General Situation

This week in the Valley continued to be very hot and dry. Sunday afternoon we had a few traces of rain throughout the Valley but nothing substantial. All crops continued to mature well with low pest pressure.

### Cotton

Cotton continued to mature nicely and the later planted cotton seems to be catching up in plant height at 1 ½ ft- 2ft while early planted cotton is right at 3ft. Many cotton fields were being irrigated this week as bolls begin to mature and size up on lower half of cotton plants. Early planted cotton was already at 5 NAWF while the majority of cotton was at 7-8 NAWF.



Maturing cotton bolls



Adult Whitefly. Photo from Carlos Bogran, TAMU

Insect pressure this week was pretty low. However, it was whiteflies that were a concern this week. Whiteflies were seen in higher numbers this week with both adults and nymphs present so keep a close eye on whitefly in the field. Out

in the Bayview and east Rio Hondo area there were reports of Verde plant bugs but none at numbers warranting treatment. In scattered areas throughout the Valley red spider mites were seen building up on cotton leaves. Low fleahopper and aphid counts were observed as populations were present but not increasing to damaging numbers throughout valley cotton fields.

## LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00109	.00745	.00197	.00722	.16713	.11152	.23883	.38684	1.09145

Week Ending	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
5/5/13	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/12/13	.00216	.00096	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/19/13	.00322	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
5/26/13	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931
6/2/13	.00043	.00339	.00244	.01018	.13857	004752	.13497	1.00114	.82565

**Traps inspected for current week: 20,819**

### Grain Sorghum

Grain sorghum maturing rapidly as heads start to turn red-orange in color. A couple of fields in the mid valley area were reportedly sprayed for midge this week. Midge could be seen in several fields as heads along the end of the field that were still flowering attracted hundreds of sorghum midges. In Willacy county there were 3 to 4 headworms per grain head being reported. In the younger 3 leaf stage grain sorghum armyworms were seen feeding on the emerging plants 1 per every 3 plants checked.



Armyworm feeding on sorghum

### Corn

No insect pressure to report on corn this week as a few fields were dying up pretty good with a couple already starting to be harvested. Some seed corn harvesting was ongoing this week.

### Highlights from Rio Farm Field Day

Yesterday at Rio Farms we were able to get a hands-on look at alternative row crops for down in deep south Texas. We were able to see different varieties of guar, sesame, southern pea, and sunflowers while learning from industry leaders about these crops in the field. While looking at the southern peas it was mentioned that they do well in sandy soils and can yield anywhere from 800-1200 lbs/acre. Guar was another crop that was observed that also does well in sandy soil conditions and has many industry uses. Another crop we got a hands-on look at as well was



Southern Pea



Guar

sesame. According to the Sesaco reps sesame is similar to cotton because it starts fruiting at nodes 6 and 7. They mentioned that early in sesame development armyworms and loopers can be a problem and whiteflies can be a problem later in the season. All in all it was a very informative and valuable field day with much info to take away.



Growers observing Guar field



Sesame

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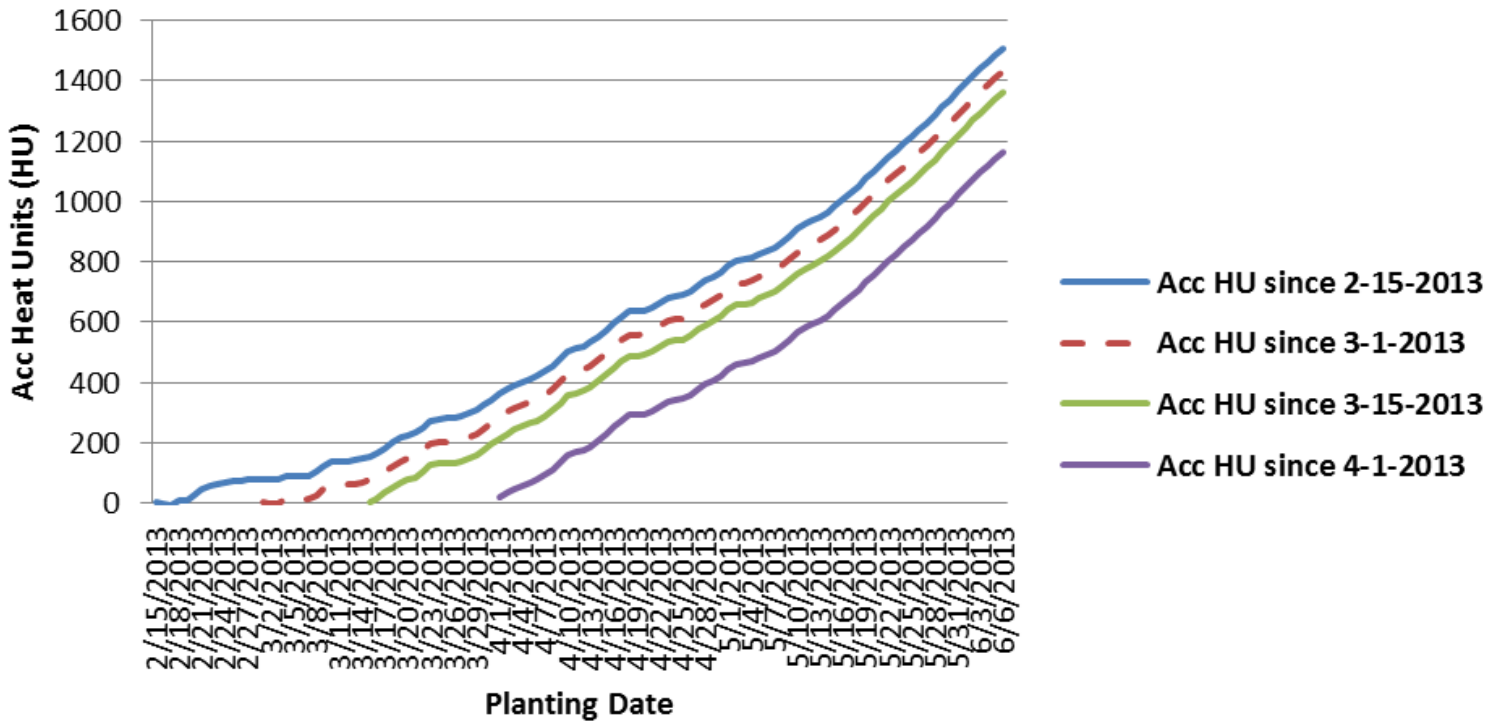
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### 2013 Cotton Heat Unit (HU) Accumulation Graph



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