



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

Hot, sticky, and humid were the weather conditions as scattered showers graced some fields this week with its presence. We received a few scattered showers Monday and Tuesday. Yesterday we observed a few showers with up to 1 inch falling in the Texan Garden area in Hidalgo County.

Cotton

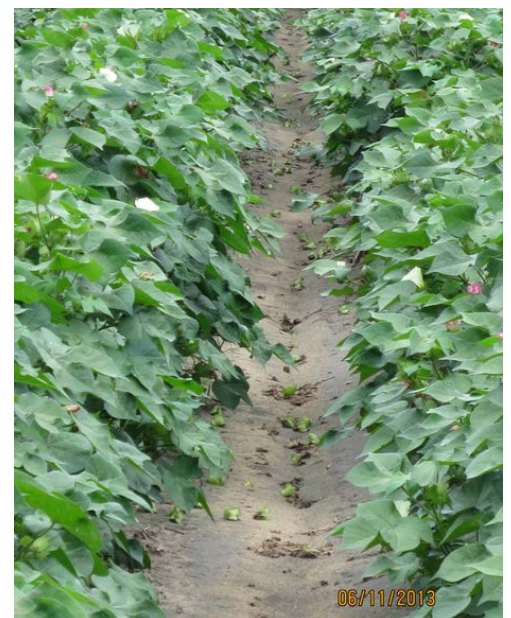


Blooming Cotton

Cotton is in excellent shape across the valley standing from 2-3 feet in height and fruiting good with lots of blooms higher in the canopies. Growers are applying plant growth regulators to the more vigorously growing fields. Despite scattered rain showers this week it was still very dry and a lot of fields were being irrigated. Those fields that did not receive rain, showed stress from the heat and growers were observed putting up ditches to irrigate. Bolls were maturing and sizing well. No open bolls have been observed though as we approach 1,650 HUs on the earliest planted fields, we should

see some start to open next week. Fields were starting to show some small bolls and squares shed. This may be due to inadequate soil moisture as was the case in some dry land cotton fields observed, or it may be the plants natural response to the number of bolls it can carry. Under optimum conditions only 35-40% of the squares will develop to mature bolls.

Whitefly populations were building everywhere throughout the valley. Black sooty mold stained cotton leaves were observed from heavy whitefly pressure in the mid valley this week and we heard reports of fields being treated for whitefly with spiromesifen or thiamethoxam in the mid Valley. Other fields are likely to be treated next week for whiteflies. Be on the lookout for whiteflies as



Square shedding in Cotton field

the recommended treatment threshold is 3 to 4 adults per leaf and one large nymph per square inch of the bottom surface of leaves. In some cases, growers are applying preventative sprays to avoid whitefly buildup.

Bollworm/budworm eggs were being observed as well as numerous moths of several species in the fields. Some of the moths seen were bollworm moths this week, so growers with non-Bt cotton should pay close attention to their crops for the next few weeks.

Fleahopper populations range from 20-30%, but because the cotton crop is in full bloom well beyond the pre-bloom damage window they shouldn't pose any real threat and treatments will not improve cotton yield.

Red spidermites were observed in a few fields in lower Cameron county but in low numbers.

Verde plant bugs adults and nymphs were being observed in very light to medium populations in the Rio Hondo, and Arroyo city areas. In Willacy county a few tarnished plant bugs were reported in irrigated fields.

Numerous beneficial insects such as lacewings, minute pirate bugs, big eyed bugs and nabid bugs were observed in the cotton as well.

With the recent scattered showers several fields had some weed issues and herbicide applications were seen being made this week.

Boll weevil populations are running well below levels seen in traps in previous years. Eradication efforts continue to keep the pressure on the boll weevil and make progress toward eradication (see table below).

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	.00109	1.01094	.00243	.00729	.16795

Week Ending	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
5/5/13	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548
5/12/13	.00216	.00096	.00174	.00291	.02454
5/19/13	.00322	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516
5/26/13	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724
6/2/13	.00043	.00339	.00244	.01018	.13857
6/9/13	.00107	.00281	.00720	.00794	.17487

Traps inspected for current week: 20,819

Corn

No insect pressure to report on corn this week as a few fields were drying up and being harvested.

Sesame

In sesame light whitefly numbers were being observed so you might want to keep an eye on that.

Grain Sorghum



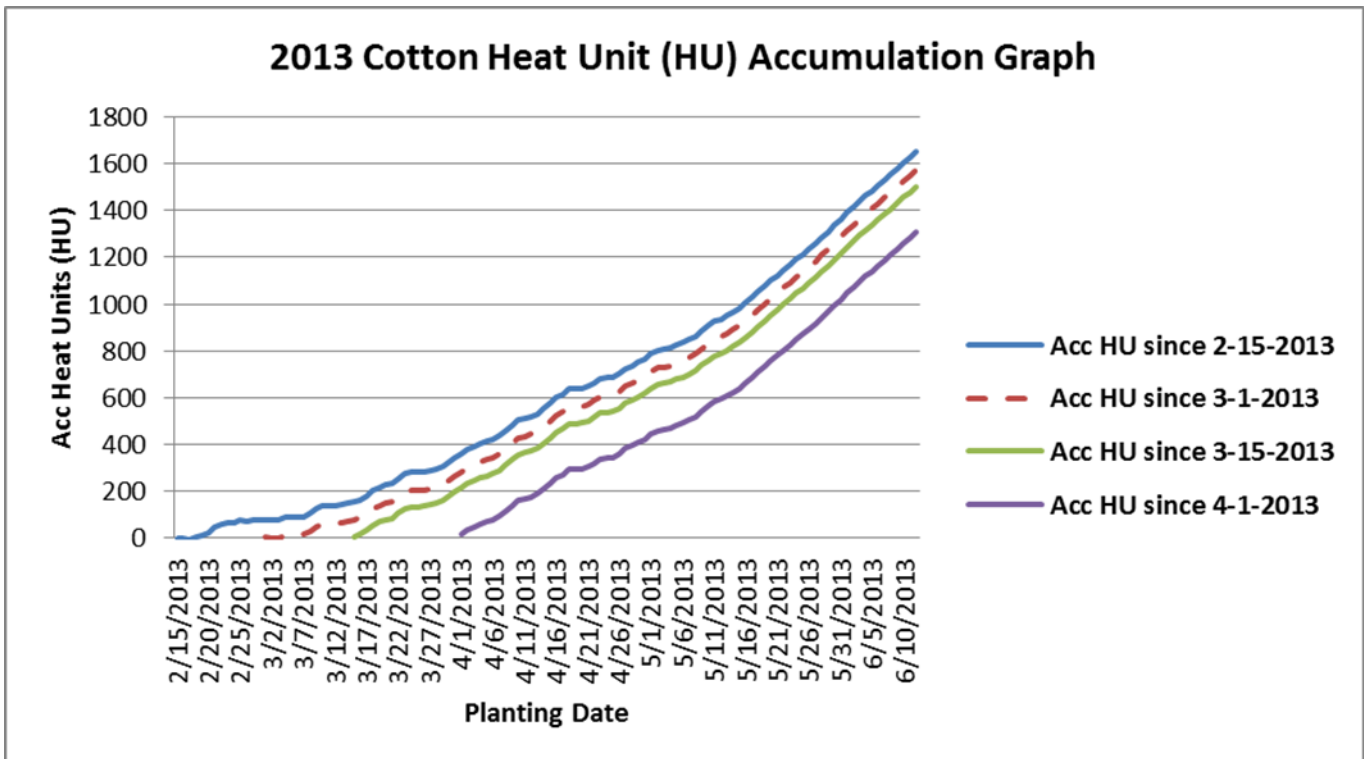
Mature Sorghum field

Lots of grain sorghum drying up and some fields were seen being harvested while the majority are well on their way as glyphosate applications were being applied. The later planted sorghum is still at high risk of high midge



Sorghum Midge on flowering grain head

infestations as various growth stages of sorghum exist right now. In the Sebastian/Lyford areas high populations of midge were being reported on later sorghum. Headworms still a problem in young sorghum whorls in many dryland fields in Willacy.



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Have a great Weekend!



Black Bellied Whistling Ducks bathing in Cotton Irrigation ditch