



## 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

More of the same weather from last week: hot and dry. Heat units are accumulating fast as it has been in the upper 90's all week with some parts of the western valley were at 100°F. Harvesting continues for both grain sorghum and corn. Overall pest activity was very low this week.

### Cotton



**Open Cotton boll**



Cotton around the valley is making good progress as later planted cotton is almost caught up with the earlier planted cotton. Last Friday we had our first bale of cotton taken to the La Feria Co-op Gin. It will not be processed until next month when more bales come in. This week we noticed more open bolls and a lot of cracked bolls as cotton is in overdrive with the rapid increase in heat units. In dry land cotton and earlier planted cotton a lot of fields were cutting out. A lot of the cotton across the Valley has good fruit set with 2-3 fruit on the lateral branches.

Whiteflies seem to have caused the majority of spray expense this year. Fields in the Brownsville, La Feria, and Harlingen area were being treated for whiteflies this week.

Verde plant bugs were also on the increase as reports of several fields in Rio Hondo, Bayview area and Harlingen area will be treated this week to avoid boll damage.

The usual predators were observed with high numbers of lacewing larvae and adults.

### Grain Sorghum

Harvesting continues and was in full force this week. In Willacy sorghum fields midge populations have been spotty or uneven. Some reports of midge at 20% have come in. Midge populations overall appeared to have declined, but with all the late sorghum planted don't be fooled by their decrease in populations as they can rapidly build back up.



**Purslane Larvae Above and Below feeding on Purslane : Photos courtesy of John Norman**



**Pyralid larva feeding on Guar: above and below**



**Sesame**

Sesame continuing to mature well as whitefly populations have been staying low. Verde plant bugs and tarnished plant bugs continue to be observed in sesame but crop damage from these pests has not been seen.

**Corn**

Harvesting continues as corn yields are not as high as sorghum but have been producing some decent yields.

**Guar**

In Lyford last week we had a guar field that had 4 different species of worms. The first species we saw was the purslane moth (*Euscirrhopterus gloveri*). The purslane larvae was yellow with black stripes like a tiger and as per its name it was devouring all the purslane weeds but was **not** feeding on the guar. We also observed the purslane larvae digging holes so they could then pupate. The second species was a Pyralid larva that we saw feeding on the pigweed and also on the guar a little. We believe this pyralid larva to be the soybean leafroller (*Omidia spp.*) or a related species. It has been sent for further identification. The third species we observed was the fall armyworm feeding on the guar but in low numbers. The fourth species found was a small hornworm that we believe to be incidental since we were only able to find two specimens.



**Above: Fall army worm preying on the Purslane larvae, Below: Fall army worm feeding on Guar**



**Hornworm**



## LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00135	.00763	.00290	.00803	.14764	.14230	.20808	.47096	3.63535

Week Ending	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
3/24/13	.00096	.01617	.00056	.00691	.73856	.14043	.10683	.48544	0
3/31/13	.00435	.03353	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.37552	0
4/7/13	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/14/13	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/21/13	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
4/28/13	.00058	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
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	.04752	.13497	1.00114	.82565
6/9/13	.00107	.00281	.00720	.00794	.17487	.11127	.03975	.46624	1.77066
6/16/13	.00318	.01212	.00556	.00766	.06249	.13535	.12318	.32430	6.85560
6/23/13	.00227	.00935	.00570	.1430	.03580	.49846	.13204	1.44546	14.96033

**Traps inspected for current week: 20,259**

**The following below is information from Cotton Incorporated and Plant Management Network:**

**Cotton Incorporated, Plant Management Network  
Launch Webcast on Plant Growth Regulators**

The cotton plant's unpredictable growth habit is complex compared to most major row crops, which makes plant growth regulators, or PGRs, a highly useful management tool for cotton producers. In this month's free [Focus on Cotton](#) webcast, published courtesy of Cotton Incorporated and the Plant Management Network, Dr. Guy Collins, Extension Cotton Agronomist at the University of Georgia, discusses [the basics of plant growth regulator use](#) in cotton crop management.

Collins helps consultants, county agents, growers, and other practitioners in the Cotton Belt identify:

- How plant growth regulators modify plant growth
- Why growth regulators are used;
- How to identify plant growth characteristics or situations in which growth regulator applications may be needed or not needed.

By the end of this presentation, the practitioner should know more about general use of plant growth regulators and how to utilize them to achieve optimal cotton yields.

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/focusoncotton/>

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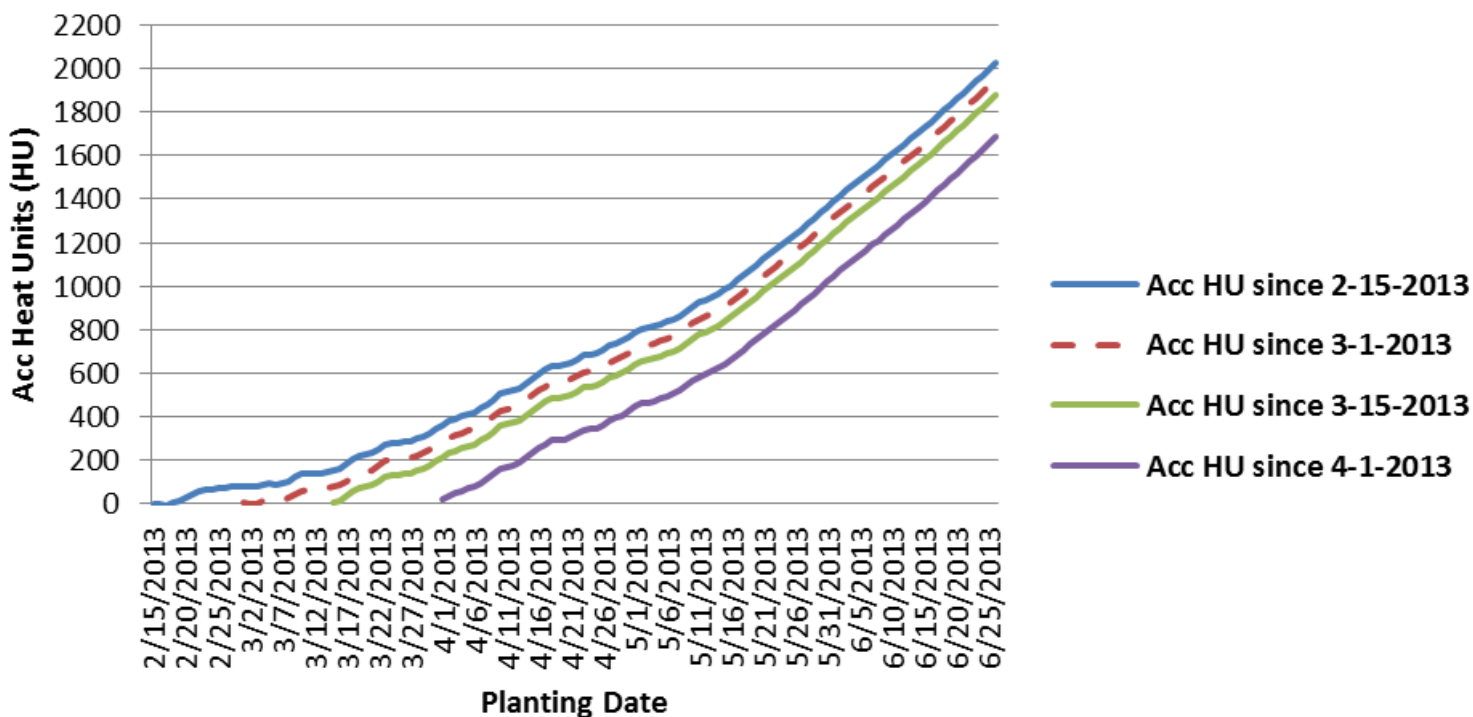
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### 2013 Cotton Heat Unit (HU) Accumulation Graph



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