



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

Growers were concerned this week as scattered rain came through the valley pretty much all this week. Some coastal areas received a little over an inch while other areas received 3/10 of an inch. Temperatures were in the low 90s during the day and low 70s at night. While this weekend may bring a couple more showers next week is forecasted to be hot and dry, good cotton harvesting weather.

Cotton



Premature senescence symptoms (above & below)



This week, despite the rains, we were seeing fields with open boll counts from 30% to 100% open. Some earlier planted fields will be receiving their second shot of defoliant this coming week. The majority of cotton is at 30-40% open boll and will receive their first application

next week. Despite the recent rains, cotton fields are still in good shape and have been able to dry out nicely since majority of rains occurred in the morning hours. Hard boll lock is expected to be a problem in areas that received greater rain fall. A report of noticeable hard lock was reported in the San Benito area. In some fields we are seeing premature senescence. Premature senescence is caused by insufficient potassium in plant tissue. The condition makes cotton leaves susceptible to secondary pathogens such as alternaria, etc. The leaves will initially turn yellow in color and then rapidly change to red/orange/bronze as plant health declines. Premature senescence often occurs when dry conditions during the boll growing stage are followed by rainy cloudy days and plants have a decent boll load.



Cotton defoliated ready for harvest

We have reports of whiteflies still being relentless in the Brownsville area. If you have high numbers of whiteflies on younger cotton - the majority of the fruit in the small boll stage - you will most likely need to treat. Whereas on older cotton you can use your defoliant to control the whitefly populations as we head towards harvest.

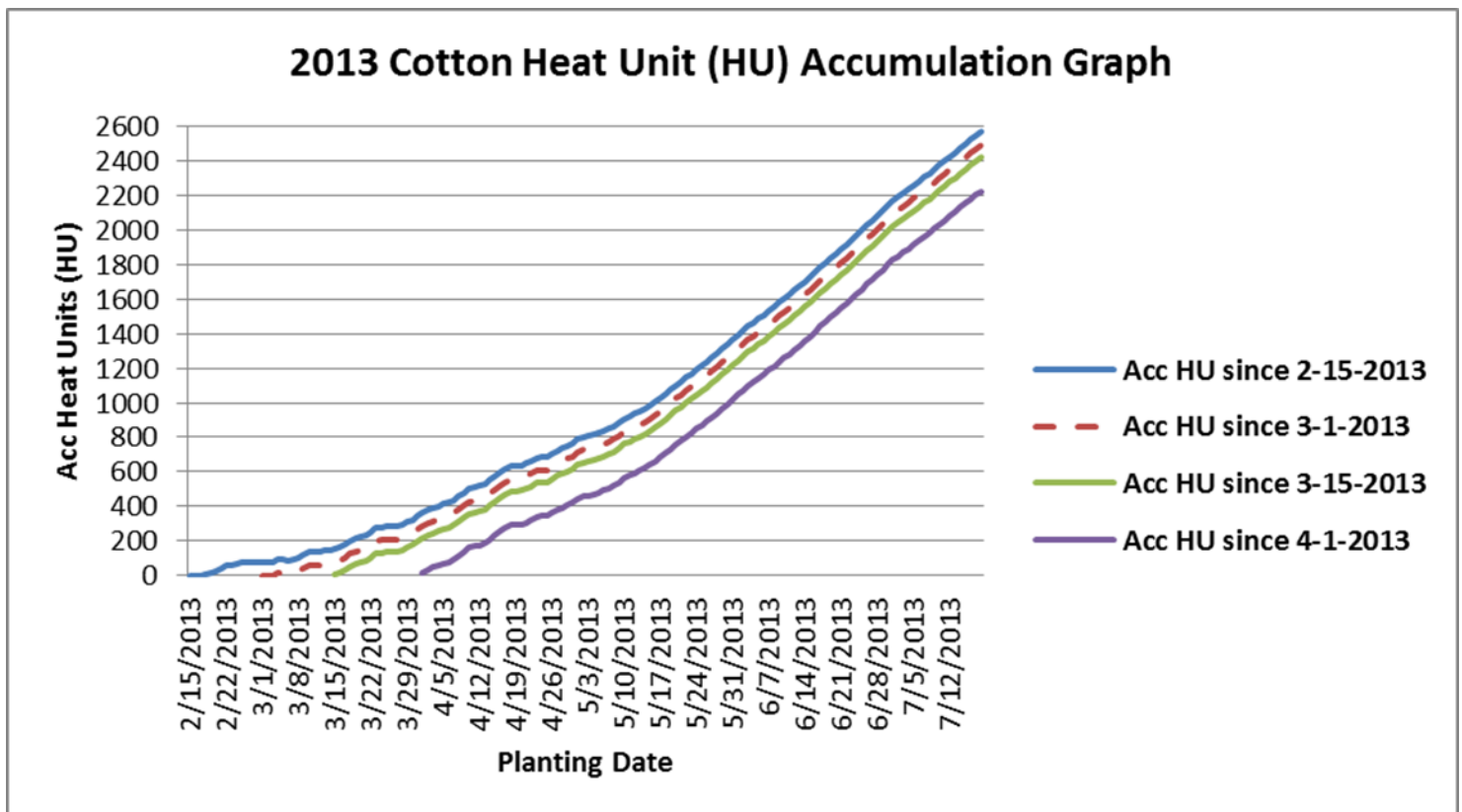
Boll weevil captures for the year in total are down 88% compared to last year. Captures this week compared to last year at this time are down 86%.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00228	.01879	.01516	.01162	.14106	.27060	.23320	1.05369	6.02299

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	.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
6/30/13	.00343	.05315	.05716	.01456	.13756	.30683	.16200	2.17874	7.73737
7/7/13	.00493	.05972	.10697	.03933	.14793	1.63195	.59710	3.61197	22.70318
7/14/13	.01020	.07231	.07553	.06099	.06107	1.65666	.33439	4.98724	10.90851

Traps inspected for current week: 16,463



Grain Sorghum

Grain sorghum harvesting continues. In Sebastian we received reports of heavy midge in that area and one field was to be treated for midge this week.

Just to Know

The Texas unicorn mantis (*Phyllovates chlorophaea*) has a range of distribution that goes from central Texas to Central America but can be found easily here in the Valley and is native to the US. Sometimes the Texas unicorn mantis is referred to as Mexican unicorn mantis because of how common it is along the border. The mantis can grow up to 3 inches in length and its body is beige and its wings are green in color. The Texas unicorn mantis female will lay an ootheca that contains anywhere from 15-50 nymphs that look like the adult, just smaller in size. The Texas unicorn is an attractive species that is known for the horn atop its head. They are great predators in nature feeding on dragonflies, crickets, fruit flies and many other small insects.



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