



# 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 was very hot with temperatures in the high 90s with some areas reaching 100° F. Next week has been forecasted to be very dry as well with temperatures continuing to rise to the 100s. Heat units for March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> planting dates have been almost the same with 2315 HUs and 2312 HUs.

## Cotton

As we start heading closer towards harvest, around the Valley the cotton crop has about 50% to 70 % open bolls on average, with later planted cotton at 10% open bolls. Most dry land cotton is maturing fast and has had some of the first fields to receive defoliant. Defoliation of cotton will really start to pick up next week in both dryland and irrigated cotton fields. Some of the defoliant being put out are thidiazuron, diuron and ethephon. This week we saw some Verde bugs out in the fields but were of little concern since the majority of cotton bolls have already matured to unfavorable size that the Verde bug cannot penetrate. Whiteflies are increasing in the Bayview area and spray control might be considered in the next week before harvest time. As for the rest of the Valley the number of whiteflies seen has been considerably low.



**Cotton Bolls opened**

## LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00126	.00178	.01466	.01115	.00914	.14692	.17669	.22885	.7697	5.97293

Week Ending	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
6/1/14	.00005	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931
6/8/14	.00164	.00043	.00339	.00244	.01018	.13857	.04752	.13497	1.00114	.82565
6/15/14	.00107	.00107	.00281	.00720	.00794	.17487	.11127	.03975	.46624	1.77066
6/22/14	.00083	.00318	.01212	.00556	.00766	.06249	.13535	.12318	.32430	6.85560
6/29/14	.00061	.00227	.00935	.00570	.01430	.03580	.49846	.13204	1.44546	14.96033
7/6/14	.00206	.00343	.05315	.05716	.01456	.13756	.30683	.16200	2.17874	7.73737
7/13/14	.00233	.00493	.05972	.10697	.03933	.14793	1.63195	.59710	3.61197	22.70318

**Traps inspected for current week: 37,340**

**Grain Sorghum**

Harvest continues to go well in both grain sorghum and corn crops. Very little acreage is left to harvest of grain sorghum. Sugarcane aphids are still present in some areas but have not had any reports of substantial problems in the area.

**Millipedes and Centipedes**

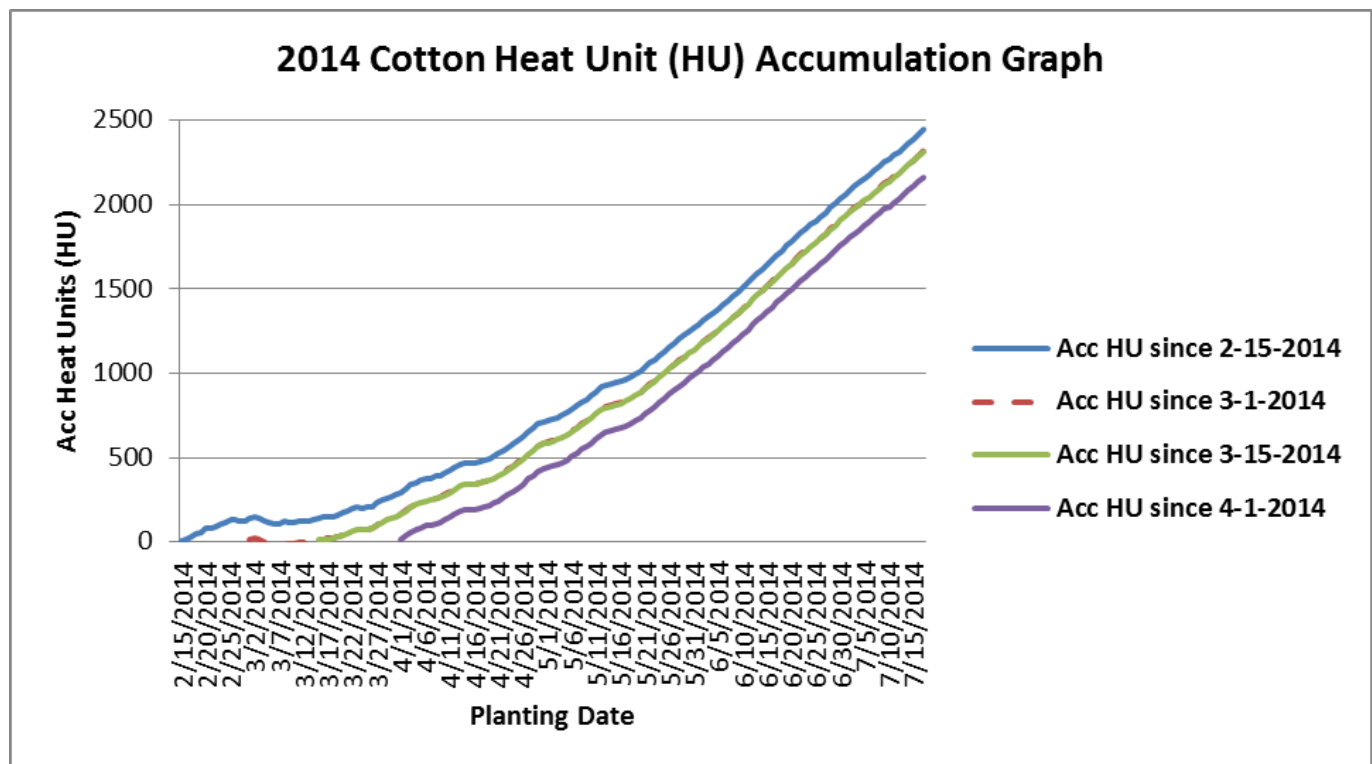
Millipedes or thousand-legged worms are wormlike soil dwellers with two pairs of legs per segment. I found one the other day in my yard and my husband asked if it was poisonous. Millipedes are not poisonous and when disturbed they curl up in a tight ball. They can however produce and release an irritating fluid that can cause allergic reactions to the skin. When being handled they can leave an odor on your hands. Millipedes are slower moving than centipedes and their bodies are round instead of flat like that of the centipede’s body. Centipedes will bite if provoked, and it’s a pretty good bite but not one that requires medical attention. Millipedes and centipedes like to spend their time in moist areas under rocks and tree branches during the day. Both are active at night. Millipedes are known to break down soil by feeding on decomposing organic matter, whereas centipedes will feed on spiders and other insects they kill with their fangs.




Above is a Millipede



Above is a Centipede



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