



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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Editor

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General Situation

Hot and dry this week was the forecast with temperatures in the high 90's reaching 100°F in some areas. With the heat units accumulating fields were able to dry out and cotton harvesting started this week.

Cotton

This week we were seeing some of the first cotton fields being harvested and many others received their defoliant. Majority of cotton will begin harvesting in 2 weeks from now, while many later planted fields with only 15% open bolls will receive their first defoliant in 2-3 weeks. The La feria Coop Gin has the first bale to be processed next week; its variety is DPL 920.



Stripping cotton

Reports of hard lock and boll rot damage from the rain was observed in the San Benito and Rangerville areas as many bolls were just starting to open last week when we received heavier rain in those areas. For the majority of the valley the damage was minimal.

The only insect activity reported was a field in the Harlingen area was sprayed for Verde plant bugs. For those who still have small cotton bolls maturing make sure they are protected from Verde plant bugs and stink bugs. Adult whiteflies are still abundant in some areas; treat as necessary to protect younger cotton.



Stalk Destruction

It's that time again where the crop our farmers strived so hard to make is nearly finished. Stalk destruction is key to controlling boll weevil populations in the effort to disrupt their life cycles to avoid overwintering. September 1 is the deadline for stalk destruction. Cotton stalks should be either completely plowed down or shredded down to 6-8 inches in height. Standing cotton stalks should be sprayed with label approved herbicides at least within 7 days after harvest for good control to avoid any regrowth. Regrowth is a big problem with the warm weather and late summer rains we have in the Valley. Waiting until 60% to 70% of the bolls are open can help reduce the amount of cotton regrowth. Plus you do not want to apply your harvest aid chemicals too early because it has been shown that premature crop termination can reduce lint yield, seed quality, micronaire, and fiber strength.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00364	.02455	.02932	.01801	.13794	.28077	.24436	1.33909	7.73018

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
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
7/21/13	.02344	.10642	.26791	.10456	.09227	2.03746	.51555	5.89333	25.24939

Traps inspected for current week: 19,282

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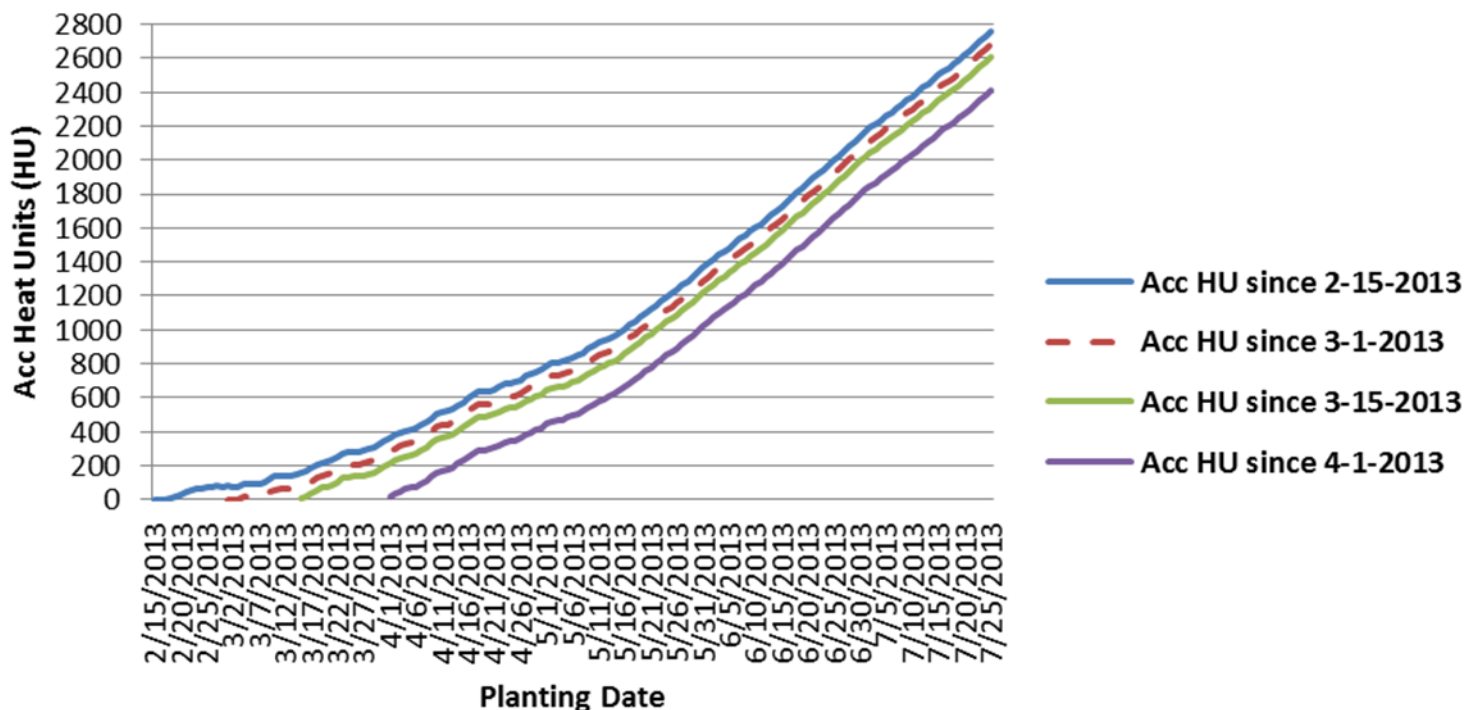
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2013 Cotton Heat Unit (HU) Accumulation Graph



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