



## 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

Throughout the later part of last week and into this week a lot of growers across the Valley were trying to get fields sprayed, cultivated, etc. in case we received some heavy rains this week from all the predicted forecasts. We received some light rain traces throughout the Valley Monday night however Los Fresnos, Olmito, Southmost, and the Brownsville areas received rain totals from 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches of rain. Despite the rain, temperatures continue to heat up with low 90s during the day and the nights in the lower 70s.

\*Throughout the season any information on pest status in LRGV fields for the Pest Cast is provided by your local crop consultants as well as our own IPM program at AgriLife extension working together to better serve the Valley and our growers' needs.

### Cotton

Majority of valley's cotton has just started squaring pretty good with the exception of some older cotton farther along. In cotton we have been finding thrips, cotton aphids, whiteflies, fleahoppers, spidermites and beneficials. Seeing high numbers of cotton aphids in the mid valley area and down by the river. If the aphids continue to increase in numbers and we do not receive a hard rain then spray might be warranted especially on the younger 5-7 true leaf cotton. It's been reported that several cotton fields this week and last week are being sprayed for cotton aphids and thrips. In the seedling cotton still seeing good numbers of thrips in the Mid Valley area where onion fields are present. Finding very few whiteflies in Weslaco, Mercedes area and south along the river. Reports of red spidermites present in cotton in the Harlingen area. If we continue to have dry weather it will be critical to scout younger cotton for red spider mites to avoid stunted growth from excessive feeding. In all three counties starting to pick up on fleahoppers but very few at this time. The next four to five weeks will be critical to monitor for fleahoppers as research shows that as many as 85% of total bolls harvested come from squares set during this time period. Again when scouting for fleahoppers, each time you sample (weekly is good) you will want to check 25 terminals in at least 4 locations of a field starting when the first squares are appearing. If you notice anywhere from 15 to 25 fleahoppers per 100 terminals with squares being lost (rule of thumb: 10% the first week of squaring, 15% the second week of squaring, and 25% the third week of squaring, with treatment rarely needed after first bloom) treatment is justified. Some of the insecticides used to treat fleahoppers are Assail, Centric, Intruder, Carbine and other insecticides.

## Grain sorghum

Majority of grain sorghum in the Valley is either at boot stage or has already headed out and is now flowering. Many fields have either been irrigated in the last week or will be irrigated this week. Make sure before you go ahead and water your fields to check for sugarcane aphid and see if it is practical to spray. From last week into this week we have been seeing small sugarcane aphid colonies on sorghum leaves (5-15sca/leaf) in the commercial sorghum fields that we monitor but nothing that warrants spray treatment yet. Many adult winged aphids (alates) have been taking flight into the fields and started to reproduce. However along the river and near the coastal regions we are starting to see some honey dew secretions on some leaves already and slightly higher colonies of 50-150 sca/leaf on scattered plant here and there. It is critical during the next 3 weeks to monitor your sorghum closely. Monitor sorghum fields every 3-4 days. I have received reports of some producers spraying for sugarcane aphids in their sorghum. Products available for use in sorghum to treat the sugarcane aphid are Sivanto and Transform. Both products offer good control of the sugarcane aphid. Transform received a Section 18 for use on sorghum that became effective on April 8 2016 and expires on April 8 2017. Note that when making a Transform application you have to have a **copy of the label in hand**. Also note that the Section 18 label for Transform this year stipulates that the product Transform **cannot be applied  $\leq$  3 days pre-bloom until after seed set**. Sivanto also received a 24c label reducing its **PHI from 21 days to 14 days** (same as Transform). For those who were not able to attend the SCA meeting last week or for those who want to take a second look at the presentations you can find them available at my webpage as well as the product labels for Sivanto and Transform plus the current Pest Casts for the 2016 year:

<http://southtexas.tamu.edu/programs-and-services/ipm/>

## Corn

Nothing to report on corn.

## Sponsorships

Pest Cast sponsorship opportunities will be available again this year. Your support is very much appreciated. Cotton and Grain Producers of the LRGV will be coordinating the sponsorships again. For more information on sponsorship, please contact Webb Wallace at [cottonandgrain.lrgv@gmail.com](mailto:cottonandgrain.lrgv@gmail.com) or (956) 491-1793.

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## 2016 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors

### Diamond



**Bayer**  
**Dow/Phytogen**  
**Monsanto**  
**Sesaco**

### Platinum



**None.**

### Gold



**Gulf Compress**  
**Valley Co-op Oil Mill**

### Silver



**Cameron County Farm Bureau**  
**Crop Production Services**  
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**Miller Chemical & Fertilizer LLC**  
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**Valley Ag Crop Insurance**  
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### Bronze



**Bennack Flying Service**  
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