



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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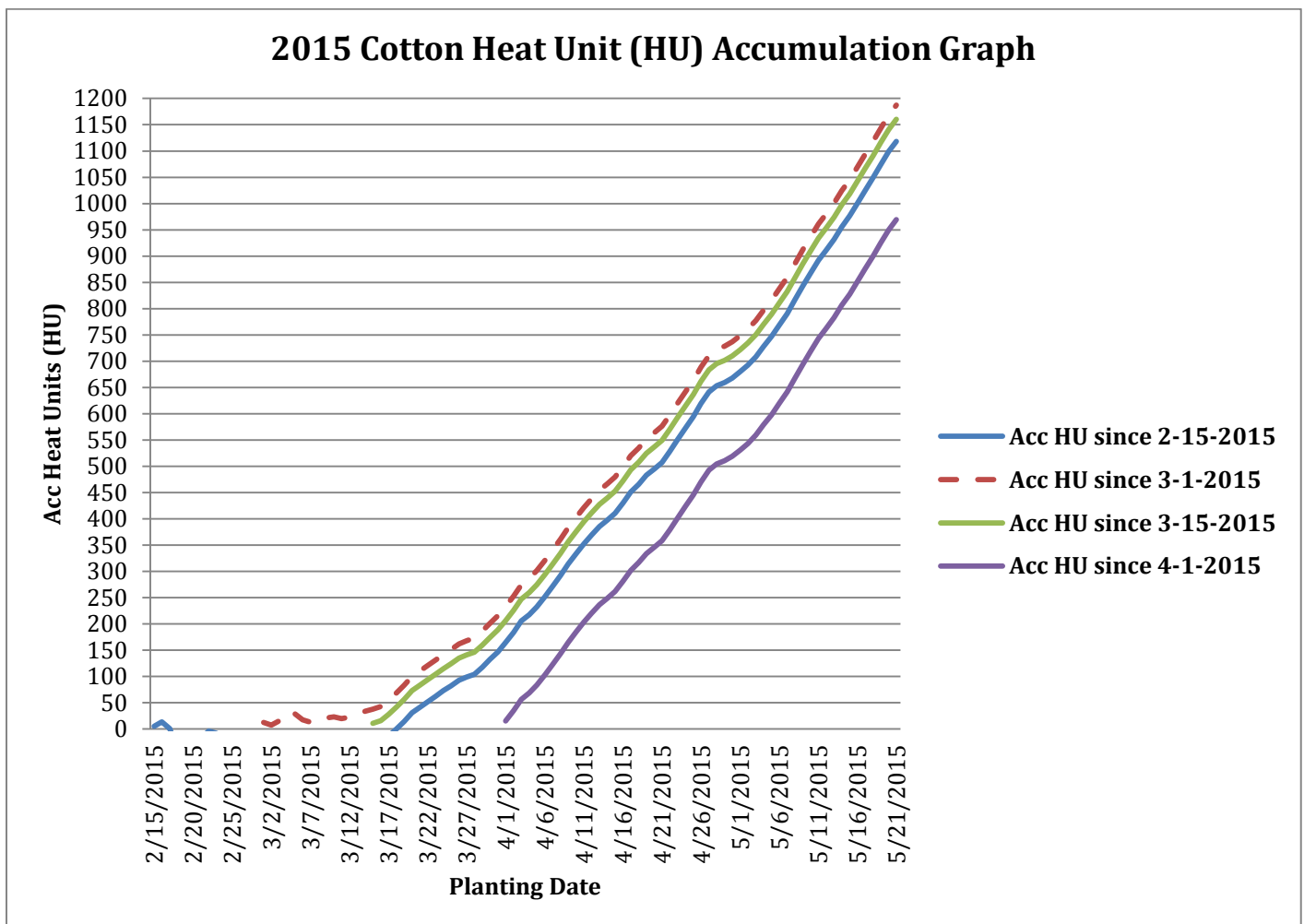
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General Situation

This week everyone was in there fields applying some type of spray applications as soon as they dried from the rains we received last Monday night. This week heat units accumulated fast as it was in the lower 90s during the day and upper 70s at night. Throughout the Valley everyone received on average 2 inches of rain last week. West Hidalgo County however received rain totals anywhere from 5-8 inches. Yesterday, Thursday, we received some light rain fall which was enough to halt field activities.

2015 Cotton Heat Unit (HU) Accumulation Graph



Cotton

Cotton this week is growing fast as we received a lot of rainfall last week. Cotton stands look good with anywhere from 12-16 true leaves with cotton squaring and fruiting heavily. Warmer nights have speeded up cotton plant growth. The general rule is that for every 50 heat units (HU) a new node develops. This week as fields began to dry out growers were seen racing into their fields to apply plant growth regulators (PGRs), such as Mepiquat chloride to help with shortening internode length to increase fruit production, control growth and promote earliness.

Moderate aphid pressure is still being seen in Valley cotton fields. Fleahoppers were being seen in great numbers in cotton this week as we noticed some light square blasting. Continue to monitor your cotton for fleahoppers and treat accordingly.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.01697	.00167	.00099	.01351	.00212	.00944	.20591	.14138	.29212	.39110	2.03058

Week Ending	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/19/15	.01756	.00164	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/26/15	.02083	.00149	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
5/3/15	.02954	.00086	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/10/15	.01121	.00243	.00058	.00474	.00043	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028

Grain Sorghum

This week and last week I received reports of some fields being sprayed with high SCA populations mainly in the eastern Cameron reaching all the way north to the Willacy county line and in the mid Valley area in Hidalgo and Cameron counties. However, in a lot of the LRGV grain sorghum fields we are finding SCA but in **Very** low numbers. We have yet to reach the threshold of 100 SCA/leaf here at the station in Weslaco as we have had continuous SCA presence and presence of winged SCA; but natural predator populations have been seen keeping SCA numbers low below 20 per leaf or lower counts. It is quite a difference from last year when here on the experimental fields in the AgriLife Center at Weslaco and some commercial fields in the RGV we had SCA populations of 700-2,000 per leaf. Also this year environmental factors such as the continuous rainfall and overcast days we believe has also inhibited the SCA from reaching soaring populations. Last year we had rainfall but it was not continuous and we also had intense sunlight beaming down, while this year the rain has kept coming with overcast days and pleasant working weather conditions outside (aside from the muddy fields and mosquitos). With that said I'd advise you to please check your fields before you spray. Many have had the pressure to spray these last 3 weeks given the recent rainfall and potential for more rain, however I would strongly recommend that if you are not seeing an average SCA population of 100 SCA/leaf then you should wait if possible so as not to decrease the beneficial insects present keeping the SCA in check. Please CONTINUE CHECKING your fields because it is possible a second outbreak of SCA around the harvest time as occurred last year. What we have been observing in the field is continuous predation from beneficials even as new winged aphids fly into fields and reproduce. We are also seeing very few sorghum midge at flowering.

Below are links with more SCA information:

<http://agrilife.org/stxborderinsects/sugarcane-aphids/>

<http://txscan.blogspot.com/>


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