



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 all sunshine in the upper 80s as we accumulated some much needed heat units. Fields were drying up from last week's rains fast. In general crops are growing well with the exception of high sugarcane infestations in the sorghum.

Cotton

In cotton this week we observed some of the first blooms in the fields. Cotton plants are at about 11 to 12 nodes throughout the majority of the Valley and have good fruit set. Cotton is growing fast, and long internodes are being observed. Many growers are putting out plant growth regulators (PGRs), such as Mepiquat chloride to help with shortening internode length to increase fruit production, control growth and promote earliness.



Cotton infested with cotton aphids

fields as well, such as ladybug larvae and syrpid larvae feeding on the cotton aphids.

This week many growers were on their second application for fleahopper control as populations have increased by 20 to 30 percent in all counties. Some younger squaring cotton in the Brownsville area was being treated for fleahopper infestations for the first time. Cotton aphid infestations were also on the increase as many fields were being treated for increasingly overwhelming aphid populations. Some red spidermites were also being observed returning to the cotton fields and in Cameron County a few fields were treated for them. Many beneficials are being observed in the cotton



First Cotton blooms of season



Syrid larvae feeding on cotton aphids

Come join us on Thursday May 29th, 9 am at **Hiler Farm** for our **“Volunteer Cotton Herbicide Trial Field Day”** to observe different herbicide treatments on volunteer cotton found in corn and grain sorghum fields. **1 TDA CEU will be offered.** See attached flyer.

Grain Sorghum

In grain sorghum this week we are still experiencing high sugarcane aphid populations in many sorghum fields in all 3 counties throughout the Valley. Many growers have been treating their fields and some have started to make second spray applications for sugarcane aphid control. Again it is important to monitor your sorghum fields weekly by inspecting under flag leaves and under lower leaves. We had about 172 people in attendance at our sugarcane aphid meeting, many growers from the Valley and from Mexico attended. We want to thank all of those who attended the meeting, Thanks! If you were unable to attend or would like to review the PowerPoint presentation presented at the meeting you can go to the link below and download it. It contains very valuable information; feel free to share as needed.

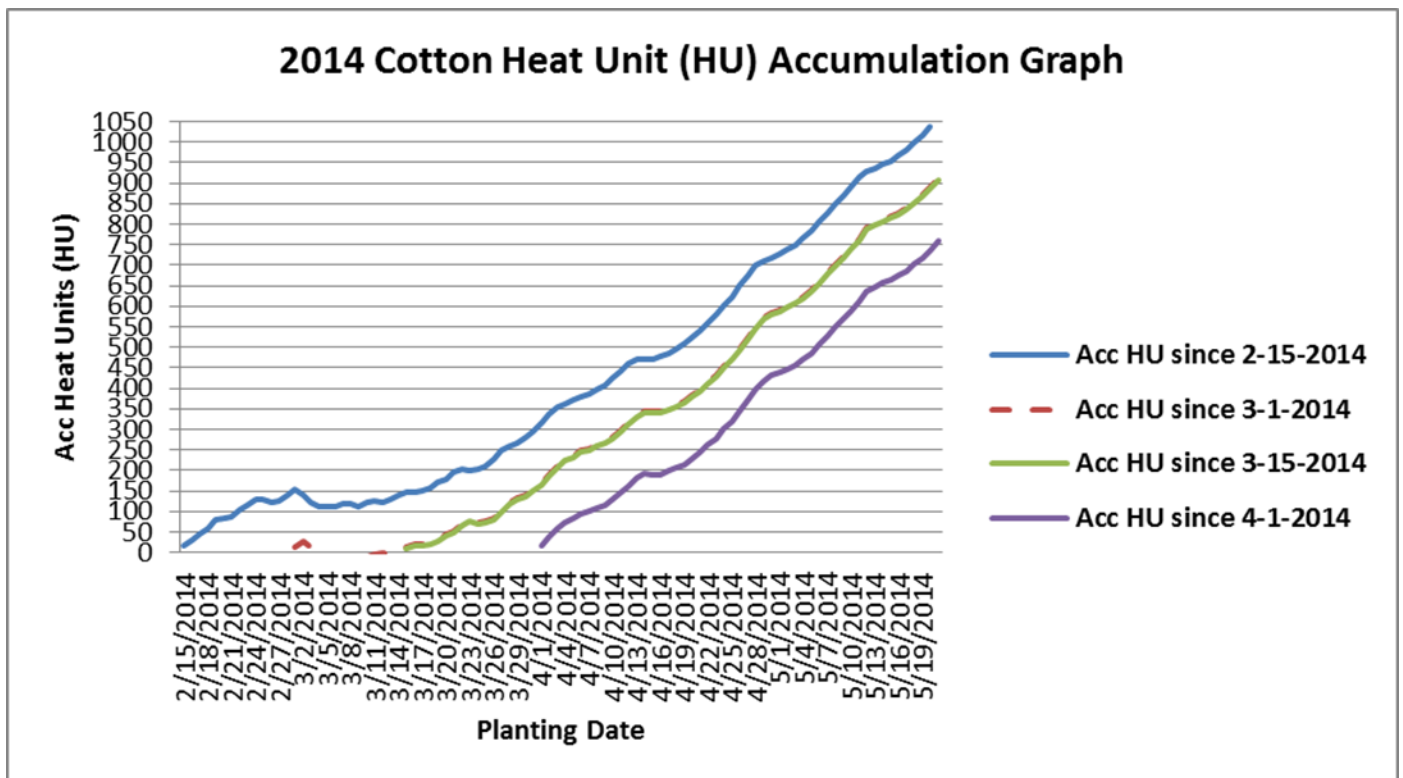


Growers observing high sugarcane aphid infestation

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

Corn

In corn some earworm pressure was being observed but nothing horrible.



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