



## 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

How is everyone doing this week? Good I hope. Well it has been a very busy week. Conditions across the Valley continue to be dry, hot and windy. We did however receive a cold front this week which lowered temps to highs in the mid-80s during the day and lows in the mid-60s at night. Overall all crops growing well but we do have a lot of pest activity across all crops so continue to monitor your fields diligently.

### Cotton

Cotton is maturing well. Most cotton is either pinhead squaring or squaring pretty good (Fig 1). Starting to pick up on a little fleahopper activity in the Monte Alto area and to the east of there so let's be mindful of fleahopper populations developing fast in the next couple of weeks during the squaring stage. On a different note cotton aphids are real bad around the Valley, had heavy populations in Harlingen,



Figure 1: Cotton Squaring



Figure 2: Cotton Aphids

Combs, Sebastian areas. Some of the

growers have already been spraying products such as Carbine and Centric and they are not seeing the residual control we are used to getting with those products. We are working with a grower trying to do a quick aphid efficacy trial and the precounts were estimated at 200, 160, 180 cotton aphids per leaf nearest the growing point, this is just one leaf, this is not including the other leaves or the many aphids seen on the stem (Fig 2). Seeing a couple of whiteflies in cotton here and there and also picking up on a little spidermite from time to time in some dry areas down by the river. I have been seeing predators present in the cotton such as scymnus lady beetle larva, convergent lady beetles and larva, green and brown lacewing larva, etc. I feel though in some fields these predators are doing a good job keeping aphid populations at bay but in other fields they are having a hard time keeping up with the rapid reproduction of these cotton aphids which is probably due to the heat.

## Grain Sorghum



**Figure 3: SCA on Sorghum**

In grain sorghum we are seeing sugarcane aphids present in all three counties, Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy. I was out in the McCook area earlier this week and did not pick up on any sugarcane aphids there. I was also in the Hargil area and



**Figure 4: Grain Sorghum in Flowering Stage**

checked some beautiful sorghum at V8 stage and did not pick up on any sugarcane aphid there. Started to barely see a few alates and nymphs south of the Monte Alto area and in the Edinburg/Elsa areas as well. We did find some sugarcane aphids barely flying in and starting to lay some live nymphs in the Harlingen area near FM

2629 and in Sebastian, Combs, Mercedes and La feria areas as well (Fig 3). My colleague Dr. Robert Bowling was in the Raymondville area and saw some sugarcane aphids there and found some good size colonies that needed to be sprayed along the coast. Most of the sorghum is in the V8 stage, booting or is already in the flowering stage, so if you have grain sorghum in these stages please check your fields for SCA because they more than likely have already migrated into your field (Fig 4). Now the two products available to spray for the sugarcane aphids this year are Sivanto and Transform. Sivanto spray at 4-5oz/acre, do not go lower than 4 oz for good residual and Transform is already available since we received the Section 18 sometime in late January and you will want to use that product at 1-1.5oz/ acre, do not go any lower than 1 oz for good residual.

## Corn

Scouted some corn this week and we have some corn already in the silking stage (Fig 5). I was not picking up on any corn earworms but did notice some egg laying on the silks.



**Figure 5: Corn in Silking Stage**

## Sponsorship

I would like to thank all our 2017 Sponsors that we have for this growing season thus far. Thanks you and your support is greatly appreciated! If any of you all would still like to Sponsor the Pest Cast just get a hold of Webb Wallace, thanks Webb.

I dedicate this Pest Cast to my Daddy... I've often wondered why I Love what I do so very much, whether I'm scouting citrus, cotton, grain sorghum, sesame, sunflowers, you name it, I love to scout it for bugs and well I guess when I find pictures like these it was always in me and instilled in me from the beginning...thanks Daddy! I will find you and bring you home!



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