



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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Volume XL

Issue 6, May 12, 2017

General Situation

Hi everyone hope you are staying hydrated with this heat. Currently our days are in the low to mid 90s and our nights in the upper 70s. We are very dry right now with no rain in sight. Many growers have been irrigating or are fixing to irrigate their fields.

Cotton

Cotton is maturing and blooming nicely. Not seeing a whole lot going on in cotton this week. We are picking up on some fleahoppers in cotton throughout the Valley. Went out to Raymondville and Sebastian and was picking up an average of 12 to 15% infestation of fleahoppers. As I moved closer to the coast the infestation level increased to about 30% but on average in Willacy and in Cameron county we are



seeing anywhere from about 10% to 30% fleahoppers. We are seeing both adults and nymphs so treat fields accordingly. We are picking up on whitefly adults as well in cotton throughout, but I noticed down by the river in the Donna area I was seeing more whiteflies under the leaves but still nothing that warranted spray yet. I was not seeing many aphids at all, very little if any and lots of predators in the cotton feeding.

I would like everyone to be aware that we did receive approval for a Section 18 for use of Transform in cotton for control of plant bugs; this section 18 expires October 31, 2017. The Section 18 label for Transform in cotton is attached. When using Transform to control plant bugs a rate per application allows for 1.5-2.25 oz/acre, with no more than a total of 8.5 oz/acre per year to be used. Remember to Not apply within 14 days of harvest and do not make applications less than 5 days apart. Also do not make more than two consecutive applications per crop.

Grain Sorghum



In grain sorghum it has been a pretty calm week. Still not finding many sugarcane aphids since the population crash this past week and really did not pick up on any when out scouting this week at all. Did however notice some heavy rice stink bug infestations in Cameron county and only a few in Willacy county, I saw lots of adults and nymphs along the coast in the Rio Hondo area so you might need to treat for them. When out scouting I did not seem to pick up on any headworm issues so that was good. What I did see was a lot of grain sorghum fields maturing quickly turning orange in color getting close to harvest and some fields were being sprayed with glyphosate. I hope that we will be ahead of the sugarcane aphid when it comes time to harvest pretty quick here. We might see another peak in population but time will tell and I will keep you posted. What I did notice was there was a lot of parasitism going on in the sorghum when I did come across a leaf that had aphids that were dead.

Other Row Crops

Was out in McCook and got to see our oil seed sunflower variety trial and the heads were loaded with seed and looked very clean. Also saw my first sesame field this week, it too was very clean as far as pests goes and was starting to put out the lavender blooms.



Your County Agents touring our Variety trials... A big thank you to our Cooperators!



Mark your calendar and save the date!

There will be a **Grain Sorghum and Corn Field Day at Rio Farms on Tuesday, May 23**. We will be checking out how the hybrids from all the seed companies look in the field trials. There will also be a feed grains market update, insect update and other pertinent topics. Come join us!!

TDA continuing education credits will be offered.

The program agenda will be out at a later date.

Thank you Research Grant Sponsors

Cotton Inc.

Texas Grain Sorghum Board

USDA NIFA iPiPE CAP grant

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