



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

Incredibly hot down here in the Lower Rio Grande Valley so stay hydrated as you work your fields and monitor your crops. Temperatures have been reaching 100°F a few times but on average we have been having temperatures in the high 90s but really doesn't matter when the heat index makes it feel like its 110°F. We did receive some good rain this week across the Valley with mostly everyone getting at least 1.2 to 1.5 inches but some spots received quite a bit more. Either way it was enough to get rained out and so next week should be a busier week trying to get in and harvest or spray in some areas as needed.

Cotton

Muddy this week getting into a lot of you all's cotton fields as many had been just irrigated when we received this much needed rains. Across the whole Valley I am definitely seeing an increase in whiteflies, in both adults and in nymphs. Some cotton fields have already had to be sprayed around the Santa Rosa area to control whiteflies and I know in Mexico they have been having some issues with high whitefly populations in the cotton as well. Also we have been seeing about 2-3 tarnished plantbugs, 1-2 Verde bugs, and 1-2 stinkbugs per 100 sweeps in generally all cotton fields across the Valley. So



Adult Verde plant bug

plantbugs are present. We have a lot of mature bolls but still have a lot of immature bolls out there and lots of later planted cotton. We are seeing many predators in the cotton as well, lots of minute pirate bugs, lacewings, lots of lady beetles, schymnes beetles, and big eyed bugs which is always very helpful and good to see present.



Figure 1: Tarnished plantbug adult



Figure 2: Tarnished plantbug nymph

Grain Sorghum

I am not seeing the high tarnished plantbug numbers hanging out in the sorghum prior to harvest like I did last year (2016) but we are still finding them here and there with the occasional beat bucket and they will seek refuge in the cotton once sorghum is harvested so just be mindful of that. We are starting to see the sugarcane aphid populations build back up again. This is the second population peak that we generally see prior to harvest. Some fields have very low numbers, 3 to 5 nymphs here and there so hopefully the predators will take care of that, but in some areas along the river and coast we are seeing

quite high numbers of sugarcane aphids (500+) but in pockets so you will want to check your sorghum fields prior to harvest. Check your fields to see if you have a lot of honey dew present so that way you can make a decision whether it will be beneficial to you to spray to keep combine machinery from getting clogged and breaking down. Majority of sorghum is mature and a



Figure 3: High populations of Sugarcane aphids on underside of grain leaf along the river.

lot of fields have already been sprayed with glyphosate... it's the later planted grain sorghum that we really need to watch and with these recent rains and high heat having sugarcane aphid populations get out of hand is a likely possibility if we are not careful. So let's check our fields, and get it harvested to stay ahead of them.



Happy Summer!
Hello June!
Take care everyone!

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Cotton Inc.

Texas Grain Sorghum Board

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