

Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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GENERAL SITUATION

Rainfall totals from this past week range from .6 to 2 inches with the majority of the area receiving around 1 inch. There were some scattered showers in the area on April 24. Totals ranged from a half inch or less. In general, the area has good to adequate moisture on top but still lacks deep soil moisture. Corn that was laying down due to high winds from last week has stood back up with the exception of some scattered plants. Corn has really responded to the additional soil moisture. Grain sorghum has progressed adequately, in most cases. Cotton is further along than usual but really has been slowed by the cool temperatures.

CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM

The insect situation in corn is generally light with the exception of some white grubs or chinch bugs in light numbers in some scattered fields.

Greenbugs in grain sorghum are in very light to non-existent numbers.

Yellow sugarcane aphids are not being seen.

Chinch bugs are being seen in a few area fields in light numbers.

COTTON

Cotton will range from cotyledon to 4 true leaf stage. The majority of the cotton is at the 2-3 true leaf stage with some cotton still coming up-due to dried out soil conditions at planting.

Producers with Roundup-Ready cotton should monitor their fields closely for plant growth stage and time the

Roundup application prior to the 5th true leaf reaching the size of a quarter. Farmers should anticipate adverse weather (wind or rainfall) and apply this application early enough to insure plants have not exceeded the recommended size. Warmer temperatures back earlier have accelerated plant growth.

Producers with Flex cotton have a large window to spray. Seed block cotton can be sprayed up to bloom and non-seed block cotton one week prior to harvest. Read the label for more details.

Thrips numbers will range from light to moderate. We are starting to see a little increase in thrips numbers and with the cool conditions I would expect to see an increase in damage from this pest.

Cotton **aphids** across the area will range from very light to moderate. In most cases aphids are in light numbers. However, I have seen a couple of fields with aphids at moderate levels and causing some leaf damage.

Spider mites in one location were at moderate levels one week ago but due to rain and wind spider mites have been reduced to non-existent levels.

Boll weevils: Northern Blackland Boll Weevil Eradication have been putting out boll weevil traps over the past several weeks. Spraying for boll weevils will not start until pinhead square and trap trigger has been reached. Trap trigger is 2 weevils per 40 acres.

I will also be setting out boll weevil traps this week.