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# BLACKLANDS IPM NEWSLETTER

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## General Situation

Rainfall totals from May 20 generally ranged from 0-1.5 inches. Most of the rain occurred from Hillsboro south with the majority of this area receiving from .75-1.25 inches.

Corn and grain sorghum continue to make excellent progress. In particular, grain sorghum has made excellent progress over the past two weeks. Corn has started to tassel and the earlier planted grain sorghum is approaching boot stage. The area will need additional rainfall in the near future.

Wheat harvest is underway. Early reports indicate a number of fields with yields 50 bushels and better. Yields have been better than expected with the exception being wheat on poorly drained soil.

Cotton growth stage will range from one true leaf to match-head square. The majority of the cotton will range from 4 true leaves to pinhead square. Cotton has progressed well over the two weeks.

## Grain Sorghum

**Greenbugs** numbers are light.

**Yellow sugarcane aphids** are being seen in a few area locations in very light numbers. This may be an insect to watch as the season progresses.

No real change in these insects over the past week.

## Cotton

**Thrips** have been a problem in the later planted cotton. Most of these fields have been treated with a foliar insecticide. The earlier planted has grown past thrips problems.

**Cotton aphids** are light.

**Cotton fleahoppers** will range from 8-64 per 100 terminals. The earlier planted cotton is squaring and most fields have been treated with a foliar insecticide. Fleahopper numbers began to increase the latter part of last week. The majority of the fleahoppers we are seeing are adults. Percent square sets will range

from 65-90 percent. In the Blacklands, anything over 60% is considered good.

*Adult fleahoppers are about 1/8 inch long and pale green. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and are light green. They move very rapidly when disturbed. Adults move into cotton from weed hosts when cotton begins to square. Both adults and nymphs suck sap from the tender portion of the plant, including small squares. Pinhead size and smaller squares are most susceptible to damage.*

**Management and decision making:** *The decision to apply insecticide should be based upon the number of fleahoppers present and percent square set. As the first small squares appear (approximately 4-to 6 leaf stage), examine the main stem terminal buds (about 3 to 4 inches of plant top) of 25 plants at each of at least four locations across the field. More sites should be sampled in fields larger than 80 acres. As plants increase in size and fruit load, larger numbers of fleahoppers may be tolerated without yield reduction.*

*When plants are blooming, flea-hopper control is rarely justified.*

*The economic threshold level for fleahoppers is 15-25 per 100 terminals.*

### **Boll Weevil Eradication**

*Cotton fields that do not have boll weevil traps set out should contact NBBWEF at 903/641-0020.*

It is critical for the continued success of boll weevil eradication that all fields are trapped and monitored for boll weevils.