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BLACKLANDS IPM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XV ISSUE: 7

DATE: July 1, 2010

General Situation

Rainfall totals for the week range from 0-4 inches. Silage harvest has been slowed due to rain showers. Most of the corn is in the dent stage. Grain sorghum will range from bloom to hard dough.

Cotton growth stage will range from four true leaves to 3/4 grown bolls. Most of the cotton is finally set pretty well. Cotton is blooming and setting bolls.

Wheat

I had a few farmers ask about the market situation and wheat planting intentions for this next season. *The following is provided by Dr. James M Welch, Assistant Professor & Extension Economist, Texas A&M University*

A few thoughts come to mind on planting decisions for wheat this fall. I think the basis situation will improve. In fact, if we have a La Nina winter, by this time next year we will be looking at low yields, high abandonment, and high protein. A producer needs to look at their production history and crop budgets--but as far as expected price, I would use a basis in the

low range of the last few years but necessarily the record lows of this season. Wheat acres are on the decline in the U.S. and globally, which will eventually create a supply problem. The nice thing about wheat, you can utilize the forage and make a grain decision next spring in time to switch to another crop depending on how things look at that time. One thing that should help, planting seed should be cheap.

Grain Sorghum

Greenbugs numbers are light.

Yellow sugarcane aphids are light.

Sorghum midge continue to be in light numbers. Producers need to monitor daily any grain sorghum fields in the yellow bloom stage. The economic threshold is an average of 1 per head. Most of the milo in the area is past sorghum midge damage.

Stink bugs have been treated in the majority of the IPM Grain Sorghum Scouting Program fields. Once milo reaches the late soft dough stage you can have somewhat higher numbers and still be below economic threshold levels. Once grain sorghum is in the hard dough stage it is past stink bug damage.

Spider mites have been seen in higher numbers in a few grain sorghum fields. An insecticide application for stink bugs may cause additional problems with spider mites.

Corn

Spider mites have been seen in a number of area corn fields. Economic injury level may be caused prior to the full dent growth stage. Mite feeding after full dent will not cause yield loss, but may contribute to premature plant lodging if mite feeding damage is severe and the crop is stressed. Mite feeding will not slow dry-down of the grain. Refer to Texas AgriLife Extension publication E-400; Managing Insects and Mite Pests of Texas Corn.

Cotton

Cotton aphids are light but on the increase in some area fields.

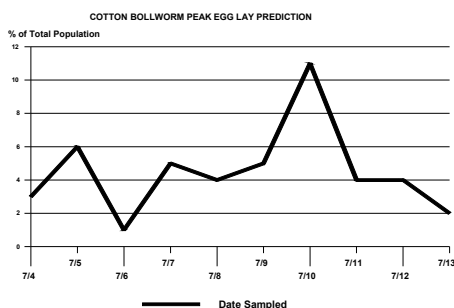
Cotton fleahoppers will range from 0-50 per 100 terminals.

Spider mites are being seen in higher numbers in some area fields. There have been several more fields treated for mites over the past week. Currently, spider mites in cotton is the pest of most concern. In particular, I have seen damaging levels of mites moving out from house sites and corn fields. Producers will need to closely monitor any cotton next to corn. Other situations causing mite problems will be dusty roads, road sides, creek bottoms, pastures and adjacent crops. Hopefully, wet weather will have an impact on the reduction of spider mite numbers.

Spider mites infest the undersides of leaves, where they remove the sap from the plant and cause the leaves to discolor. They may also infest bracts of squares and bolls, causing the bracts to desiccate and squares or small bolls to shed. Severe infestations can defoliate the cotton plant. Mite infestations most often occur in spots and in field margins. Increased spider mite populations usually follow multiple applications of insecticides for other pests, since insecticides destroy natural spider mite predators. Mites may be moved by high winds or equipment from nearby crops which already have heavy infestations.

Bollworm eggs range from 0-10 per 100 plants. Producers with non-Bt cotton will need pay particular attention for bollworm larvae infestations.

Peak bollworm egglay is predicted for July 10 with a smaller peak on July 5.



A study was conducted to determine bollworm peak egglay in cotton. Two fields of corn with different maturities were utilized. Larvae were collected and measured and projected to the first day of oviposition as a moth into cotton.

Stink bugs are also an insect we will need to monitor in cotton. The economic threshold is 1 per 6 row feet with 20% of quarter size bolls having internal injury. *Callous growth on internal boll wall and/or stained lint.*

Lygus bugs will range from 0-4 per 100 plants.