

Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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General Situation

Hot dry conditions continue to dominate the area. Grain harvest is in full swing. Grain sorghum yields are highly variable depending on soil moisture through the season. Corn yields are below average.

Cotton growth stage will range from bloom to open boll. The majority of the cotton will range from 2/3 grown bolls to open boll. The hot dry conditions are causing bolls to open prematurely.

Grain Sorghum

Stink bugs are being seen in light numbers in most area fields. I have heard of some reports of some later milo with higher numbers.

Sorghum headworms are light in most fields. The exception would be late milo with higher numbers.

Cotton

Spider mites will range from non-existent to light in most area fields. This pest is on the decrease in most fields with one or two exceptions. Beneficial insects have reduced spider mite levels.

Cotton bollworm eggs will range from 0-8 per 100 terminals. Bollworm larva will range from 0-5%. Hot dry conditions has caused the bollworm egg lay to taper off dramatically.

It appears that there has been enough feeding for one to two day old bollworms in cotton with Bt technology to have caused some bolls to callous on the inside boll wall. Callous bolls will typically have one or two locks damaged and in some cases the entire boll.

Stink bugs will range from non-existent to very light. With grain harvest currently being conducted fields will need to be monitored for movement out of corn and/or grain sorghum into cotton. I expect light numbers of stink bugs moving into cotton. The main stink bug we are seeing in grain sorghum is the rice stink bug (tan colored) and this is not a pest in cotton.

Boll Weevil Eradication

Producers that have planted cotton that is up behind harvested wheat should contact Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 325-672-2800.

