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# Crop IPM Profile

A NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS GROWERS

Information can be accessed from the following web sites:

Department of Entomology: <http://entowww.tamu.edu>

Texas Pest Management Association: [www.texag.net](http://www.texag.net)

Ellis County Web Site: <http://ellis-tx.tamu.edu>

Navarro County Web Site: <http://navarro-tx.tamu.edu>

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## GENERAL SITUATION

Intense heat and dry conditions have greatly accelerated cotton maturation over the past several weeks. Such conditions have been ideal for preparing the crop for harvest. This sets in place an opportunity for an early harvest and early cotton stalk destruction which would compliment efforts to control the boll weevil. Most defoliants are providing effective leaf drop. Cotton harvest began about a week ago with some of the early reported yields ranging from about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to just under a bale per acre.

## Early Harvest - Immediate Post Harvest Stalk Destruction Compliments Boll Weevil Eradication

An early harvest this season will greatly impact the condition of weevils entering diapause and render them more susceptible to any adverse weather this

winter. Right about now you are probably thinking, what winter? Great point! I realize in many years we seem to miss winter altogether. Obviously no one knows the type of weather this winter will bring, but, by sending weevils into diapause early and unprepared can't hurt. The most important part of the equation is **Early Post Harvest Cotton Stalk Destruction**. It is imperative that cotton stalks be destroyed early (as soon as possible after harvest) and **regrowth be eliminated**. Weevils do not survive on leaves, but before you know it squares are present and a bountiful food supply exists. Late squares provide weevils with the needed protein/nutrients for survival and conditioning for successful overwintering. Thus it is critical that this food source be eliminated.

The North Texas Blacklands Boll Weevil Eradication Zone (NTBWEZ) incurred staggering costs last fall during the

diapause phase of the program from repeated treatment of late planted fields and those with regrowth supporting squares. Producers can save the program and themselves the expense of multiple late season sprayings this year by early harvest and effective immediate post harvest stalk destruction.

I realize that cotton stalk destruction is not a popular issue and needless to say can be difficult. In fact, in most years it can be quite challenging. Weather conditions have made the soil dry and hard and plowing out stalks following shredding has limitations. Producers may want to apply a labeled herbicide to stalks immediately after shredding. This may mean rigging up a spray boom behind the shredder or perhaps a trip over the field with the sprayer following shredding of stalks. Some herbicides labeled for cotton stalks include; 2, 4-D (ester and salt formulations), several dicamba products (Weedmaster, Clarity and Banvel. **For herbicides to be legal for cotton stalk destruction, the label must state for crop stubble or specify cotton as the target pest following harvest.**

The enclosed fact sheet entitled "Cotton Stalk Destruction with Herbicides" is quite informative.

**Early Harvest & Stalk Destruction  
Critical to Boll Weevil  
Eradication**



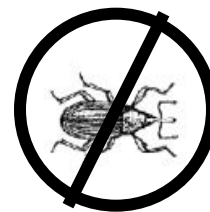
## Boll Weevil Pheromone Trap Results

The table below illustrates the number of weevils trapped from 28,060 traps over the past three weeks vs. last season during the same time.

Date	2006	2005
7/30	0.3369	2.771
8/6	0.4021	4.4119
8/13	1.8101	4.5534

Source: Texas Boll Weevil Eradication

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