

# pest 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>

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### GENERAL SITUATION

Higher temperatures and drier conditions dominated the weather over north central Texas during the past week. Corn and sorghum continues to make good progress. Cotton growth ranges from 1/3rd grown square to bloom to small boll. Saturated soils continue to delay wheat harvest. According to several producers who have been able to harvest a few fields of wheat this past week, "fields which had the potential to produce 60 bu./acre is now yielding about 20 bu./acre.

### Sorghum Insects

#### Midge

With the exception of only a few fields, the area's sorghum crop is past the midge susceptible stage. Producers with late blooming sorghum are encouraged to inspect fields frequently for midge. The economic threshold is about 1 midge per blooming sorghum head.

#### Grain Head-Feeding Bugs

(rice stinkbug, southern green stink bug, conchuela stink bug, brown stink bug) Many fields of sorghum have already been treated for stink bug. In fields which were treated, stink bug numbers

have ranged from 56 to 112 per 100 heads examined during the past week. Based on the cost of treatment and value of the crop per acre, the economic threshold for treating stink bugs is about 1 bug/head. **Most of the damage is caused early in grain development and declines as grain develops to hard dough.** Some insecticides for treating stink bugs are: Baythroid 2E @ 1.3 ozs/acre (1 gal/128 acres) to 2.8 ozs/acre (1 gal/ 46 acres), Warrior 1E @ 2.56 ozs. /acre (1 gal/50 acres) to 3.84 ozs. /acre (1 gal/33 acres), Karate 1E @ 2.56 ozs. /acre (1 gal/50 acres) to 3.84 ozs. /acre (1 gal/33 acres), Sevin 4F @ 32 to 36 ozs/acre, Sevin 80S or 80WSP @ 1.25 to 2.5 lbs/acre, and Sevin 4 XLR Plus @ 32 to 64 ozs/acre.

### Sorghum Headworm (Corn earworm and fall armyworm)

Corn earworm larval numbers have ranged from 3 to 9 per 25 heads. Based on the cost of treatment and value of grain, the economic injury level for small larvae (1/4 - 1/2 inch) is about 1 larvae/head. The economic injury level for large (longer than 1/2 inch) corn earworm larvae is about 1 per 4 sorghum heads.

### **Overview of Cotton Crop**

Generally, rank growth - less than desirable fruit load!! This situation is common throughout the blacklands and much of the state brought on by extended periods of excessive rainfall. Many fields are in dire need of a plant growth regulator + fleahopper insecticide application.

### **Management of Rank Cotton Growth**

The priority for many producers should be to apply an appropriate rate of a plant growth regulator as soon as possible to gain control of excessive plant growth. Many producers have previously applied several ounces of a plant growth regulator; however, because of an extended plentiful supply of soil moisture, the potential for growth is tremendous. The amount of a plant growth regulator to apply greatly depends on the cotton variety, fertility, soil moisture and history of the field to produce excessive growth. Many of the newer cottons grown today have the propensity for vigorous growth. Therefore, with the plant growth that many producers are experiencing in their fields and plentiful soil moisture, we need to forget about the 4 to 6 ozs. rates that are usually adequate and consider much higher rates. Generally, for a variety such as DP 444 BG/RR on upland, 10 to 14 ozs. of Pix/acre would not be too much. The same cotton (DP 444 BG/RR) on bottomland, especially under high

fertility, and where plants are already waist high or taller, 32 to 40 ozs. of Pix per acre may be needed to manage plant growth. Some plant growth regulators include; Pix, Pix Plus, Pentia and Stance. **NOTE;** Stance is a new plant growth regulator from Bayer Crop Science and is labeled for rates of between only 2 to 3 ozs. per acre.

### **Cotton Insects**

#### **Cotton Fleahopper**

Early squaring cotton should be inspected carefully for fleahoppers and blasting of small squares. Fleahopper numbers ranging from 4 to 20 per 100 plant terminals were observed in squaring cotton this past week. Some insecticides include: Orthene 90S @ 3 ozs./acre, Bidrin 8E @ 1 gal./50 to 60 acres, dimethoate 4E @ 1 gal./ 16 to 32 acres, Intruder 70WR @ 0.6 to 1.1 ozs./acre, Vydate C-LV @ 1 gal./15 to 20 acres, Trimax Pro 4.4 SC @ 0.9 to 1.8 ozs./acre, Advise MAX @ 0.9 to 1.8 fl ozs. /acre and Centric 40 WG @ 1 to 2 ozs. /acre.

#### **Aphids**

Cotton aphids remain light in most fields as a result of beneficial insects and the epizootic fungus *Neozygites fresenii*.

#### **Boll Weevil Pheromone Trap Catches**

Wet fields over the past week continued to limit the number of pheromone traps checked. Over the past two weeks, treatments by the North Texas Blacklands Boll Weevil Eradication Zone (NTBBWEZ) have been based to a large degree on field history for boll weevil outbreaks. Punctured squares from boll weevil

remain light ranging from 0 to 5 per 100 squares examined.

### **Bollworm/Tobacco Budworm**

Bollworm activity has increased over the past week. Egg numbers have ranged from 6 to 23 per 100 plants. Larval numbers are highly variable, but range from 1 to 12 per 100 plants in non-Bt cotton. Producers will want to inspect non-Bt cotton and Bt fields closely for bollworm. Since bollworm larvae can get a start from eggs laid on blooms and bloom tags, some escapes in Bt cotton can occur. Therefore, producers are encouraged to make whole plant inspections. Once larvae reach a size of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or larger, the Bt protein toxin is not as effective and bollworm larval escapes are possible.

### **Soybean Insects**

Stink bug numbers have ranged from 0 to 2 per foot of row. **When stink bug numbers average 1 per ft. of row or 36 or more bugs per 100 sweeps, insecticidal control is warranted.** Some insecticides include: Orthene @ 0.75 to 1.0 lb./ac, methyl parathion @ 0.5 lb./ac, Warrior @ 3.2 - 3.8 fl. ozs/ac, Baythroid 2 @ 1.6 - 2.8 fl. ozs/ac, and Asana XL @ 5.8 - 9.6 fl. ozs/acre. **Orthene @ 1.0 lb/ac, methyl parathion @ 0.5 lb/ac or high rates of synthetic pyrethroids are more efficacious on the brown stink bug.**

### **GRASSHOPPER MANAGEMENT**

High numbers of grasshoppers are readily being observed in the border rows of some fields. As hoppers increase in size and number, their feeding to row crop borders and desirable plants can be quite destructive. The economic threshold for

treating grasshoppers in field margins is 20 or more grasshoppers for square yard. Within a field, treatment should be made when 10 or more grasshoppers are present per 3 row ft. Some insecticides labeled for crops, pastures and home stead sites are listed.

### **Cotton**

Orthene 755 at 1/3 to 2/3 lbs. /ac., Orthene 975 at 4 to 8ozs/ac., Sevin 80S at 0.5 to 1.5 lbs. /ac., Seven XLR Plus at 1 to 3 pts. /ac. And dimethoate 4E at 1 pt. /ac.

### **Corn**

Warrior T at 2.56 to 3.84 ozs. /ac., Asana XL at 1 gal. /20acs., Sevin XLR Plus 1 to 3 pts. /ac., Sevin 80S at 2/3 to 1 7/8 lbs. /ac. And dimethoate 4E at 1 pt. /ac.

### **Sorghum**

Baythroid 2 at 1 gal./64 acs., Warrior T 2.56 to 3.84ozs./ac. Sevin XLR Plus at 1 to 3 pts./ac., Seven 80S at 2/3 to 1 7/8 lbs./ac. And dimethoate 4E at 1 pts. /ac.

### **Pasture**

Malathion 57 EC at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 pts. /ac. (no grazing restrictions), Sevin 4F and Sevin XLR at  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 qt. /ac., Sevin WPS 2/3 to 1 1/4lb. /ac. (14 day interval between application and grazing), Orthene 75 WSP at 2 to 2 2/3 oz. /ac. (Beef cattle may graze treated pasture on the same day of application, but must be removed from treated area at least one day before slaughtering).

## Lawns & Homestead Sites

Bayer Advanced, Tempo, Orthene, Sevin 80WSP, Sevin XLR Plus, malathion and Neem. Also for those who prefer not to apply pesticides, now is an excellent time (while nymphs are small) to apply a biological control product, Nolo Bait or Grasshopper attack. These products contain spores of the disease agent, *Nosema locustae* and should be applied weekly for best results.

### Field Schedule for week of July 16, 2007

Monday	10:00 a.m.	Beakley Farms	Bardwell
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	JPM	Dawson
	1:30 p.m.	Williams Farm	Frost

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