

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

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GENERAL SITUATION

Higher temperatures and drier conditions prevailed across north central Texas during the past week. Corn and sorghum fields are maturing rapidly. Several fields of sorghum have been treated with Roundup to aide dry down and should be ready for harvest in about a week. Otherwise grain harvest should be about 3 weeks away. Cotton growth ranges from first bloom to small boll.

Cotton Insects

Aphids

Cotton aphids ranged from light to moderate in fields inspected this past week. Although light, in number, beneficial insects and the epizootic fungus *Neozygites fresenii* have kept aphids in check.

Boll Weevil

Punctured squares from boll weevil remain light ranging from 0 to 3 per 100 squares examined.

Bollworm

Bollworm egg laying has declined over the past few days. Egg numbers have ranged from 4 to 8 per 100 plants. Larval numbers are highly variable ranging from 8 to 27 per 100 plants in non-Bt cotton.

Bollworms in Bt Cotton

Bollworm larval numbers ranged from 4 to 35 per 100 plants in Bollgard cotton. A few fields of Bt cotton have been nearly eaten up by bollworms. Producers should inspect fields closely for bollworms, especially in the mid to lower plant canopy; under bloom tags and in white blooms. Why have we experience the number of bollworm escapes in Bt cotton this season? In essence, I believe it was the result of previous and frequent rainfall, which caused bloom tags to remain stuck to bolls, the abundance of white blooms, heavy and prolonged bollworm egg-laying and weather favorable for oviposition in the mid and lower plant canopy. Thus moths laid eggs on bloom tags (where toxin is not expressed) and in white blooms (site of the least toxin expression) and consequently bollworm larvae escaped to damaged bolls in the mid and lower plant canopy. Several fields of Bt cotton have required over-spraying with an insecticide and some others should have been treated.

Bollworm/budworm egg-laying has increased over the past few days and is forecast to peak about August 4 through 7, 2007. Often in most years, the August egg-lay is not as heavy as the one in July. **Still, producers should inspect both non-Bt as well as Bt**

fields closely for bollworm. Since bollworm larvae can get a start from eggs laid in blooms and on 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.

Stink Bugs

Producers should examine 6 row ft. at several locations in the field. When stink bugs average 1 or more/6 ft. of row, feeding can cause excessive loss of squares and small bolls and may stain lint. Examine about 50 bolls (size of a quarter) for stink bug feeding. If 20 percent of small bolls have evidence of internal feeding (callous growth on internal boll wall and/or stained lint) and stink bugs are present then treatment should be considered. Some insecticides for **brown stink** bug are: Orthene 75 S @ 16 ozs./acre, Orthene 90 S @ 14.2 ozs./acre, Orthene 97 S @ 12 ozs./acre, Bidrin 8 E @ 8 ozs./acre, methyl parathion 4 E @ 1 - 2 pts/acre, Vydate 3.77 C-LV @ 12 - 17 ozs./acre. A partial list of some insecticides for green stink bug and others are those listed above as well as: Baythroid XL @ 1.6 - 2.6 ozs. /acre, Karate 2.08 @ 1.6 - 2.56 ozs. /acre and Mustang Max 1.5 E @ 2.8 - 3.8 ozs. /acre.

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 75S at 1/3 to 2/3 lbs. /ac., Orthene 97S 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 3.84 ozs./ac., Sevin XLR Plus at 1 to 3 pts./ac., Sevin 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, and malathion.

GRASSHOPPER MANAGEMENT

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