



Texas Cooperative Extension



# SOUTHERN BLACKLANDS Pest Management News

Williamson and Milam Counties

Volume XXVII, Issue 7

June 14, 2007

*Dale A. Mott*

Dale A. Mott, EA-IPM  
3151 S. E. Inner Loop, Suite A  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-943-3300—Office  
512-352-3661, X 4400  
512-943-3301—Fax  
D-mott@tamu.edu  
<http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu/>  
<http://www.tpma.org>



## Inside this issue:

- ◆ General Situation
- ◆ Grain Sorghum
- ◆ Sorghum Insect Treatment Threshold Tables
- ◆ Cotton Management
- ◆ Williamson County Website
- ◆ Up Coming Events

## General Situation

We have received over a full week of no rainfall and most of the crops have benefited as a result of the soil drying out some. However, with summer time temperatures that traditionally occurs at this point of the year in Central Texas, it does not take long for the soil to dry real fast and leave the crops searching for moisture. Root development on most of the crops are behind where they would normally be at this time, as a result, it doesn't take much evapotranspiration demand for the crops to start showing the beginning stages of wilt. Fortunately, most of the early corn crop is fairly made and the later corn and most sorghum could benefit from an additional rain soon. In contrast, the majority of the cotton will do well for about another 10-14 days without any more rainfall as that will provide additional time for a more extensive root development prior to peak bloom when moisture demand will also peak.

## Grain Sorghum

**Sorghum midge** levels have remained relatively light over the past week. Numbers are expected to really increase as early as next week, June 18. For recommended sorghum midge thresholds see last weeks Southern Blacklands Pest Management News.

**Rice stinkbugs (RSBs)** levels continue to vary across the area. Numbers range from less 5 per 100 head to over 250 per 100

head checked. Many fields have been sprayed for RSBs over the past week and thus far, numbers have remained well below thresholds following insecticide applications. We are also seeing relatively high numbers of **leaf-footed bugs** around the edges a some fields.

**Sorghum headworm** levels are currently light, with numbers typically averaging less than 5 per 100 head.

## Cotton Management

Since last week, the cotton crop has regained its dark green color following the pale color it turned when the soil remained saturated from rainfall.

**Cotton fleahoppers** remain the pest on that is top everyone's list to discuss. Numbers range from 4 to 300 per 100 plants. I was hoping that we saw peak fleahopper levels week, but that was not the case, at least not in terms of numbers of fleahoppers per field. What we are seeing is that there are more fields this week that have lower numbers than they did last week and in many cases the insecticide treatments are working well. However, in smaller number of fields, numbers are much higher than what was found last week, despite most of those fields having been sprayed within five days prior to scouting. Remember to following the fruiting rates in fields to determine how well the cotton is holding its fruit. Square set has ranged

from 62 to 86 percent, which is higher than I would of anticipated following the saturated soil and cloudy weather that I previously mentioned.

**During the first three weeks of squaring, 10 flea-hoppers per 100 terminals may cause economic damage. Be sure and carefully monitor fields for adult and nymph fleahoppers.**

Some recommended insecticides and/or active ingredients to manage fleahoppers include Bidrin at 1 gal/40 ac, Centric at 2 oz/ac, Dimethoate 4E at 1 gal, Intruder 0.6 oz./ac, 1/16 Othene (90S) at 4 oz/ac, Imidacloprid 1.0 to 1.8 oz/ac, and Vydate CLV at 8 oz/ac.

**Aphid** levels are increasing in numbers in a small number of fields. Aphid levels will need to be monitored for the next 7-10 days to determine how heavy they will build up.

For the most part, the aphid populations are not increasing very rapidly, but are on a steady increase. In addition, beneficial levels in most of the fields where aphids are building remain relatively light. Also, it would be advisable to watch closely all fields that has recently been treated with malathion by the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation for increasing levels of aphids as a result of the potential of less beneficials following the malathion applications.

The major beneficial insects, which can control aphid populations are lady beetles, scymnus beetles, lacewing larvae, syrphid fly larvae, and parasitic wasps. Do not confuse winged aphids with parasitic wasps. In any aphid population, winged aphids exist. In fact, I am seeing more winged aphids this year than typical. Aphids are slow moving, where as the parasitic wasps is fairly quick. Actually the presence of parasitized aphid mummies is the best way to evaluate parasitic wasp activity. Aphid mummies are dead swollen aphids stuck to leaves. The mummies are tan to gold and contain a developing wasp or have a hole cut in the top through which the wasp emerged. If 20% or more aphid mum-

mies are found, you should expect aphid numbers to rapidly decline.

Heavier amounts of honeydew is developing in these fields. In general, higher aphid levels are being found on individual plants in some fields and for the most part, not very consistent across entire fields. I really do not think that aphids have increase much over last week, as many think. It is just that there hasn't been any rain to wash off the honeydew, so the accumulation from over a week of aphid activity is easily noticeable considering we have not had any "sticky-type" cotton prior to this point.

**Spider mites** remain at very light levels.

Levels of **beneficials** vary from field to field with some fields having good levels of minute pirate bugs, and damsel bugs. We are also seeing some lady beetles, syrphid flies, lacewings and spiders in some light levels in some fields.

**Bollworm/budworm** eggs and some looper eggs have been found on a more consistent basis over the past week, but worms have not been found.

The following information on average number of weevils per trap per week is provided by the **Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation** and is weekly trap catch averages.

<u>Average number of weevils/trap/week</u>			
<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
May 13	.0752	.0442	.0148
May 20	.3245	.0302	.0443
May 27	.0422	.0301	.1435
June 3	0	.0178	.0584

## Williamson County Website

Remember that this and all upcoming Southern Blacklands Pest Management Newsletters can be found at our County Web site:

<http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu>

You can also find links to copies of newsletters from the previous two seasons. In addition, you can find the Crops and Livestock Newsletter, and newsletter from all the Williamson County Staff. Also, there is plenty of information on Pest Control, Horticulture, Landscape Management, Gardening, CEU Opportunities, 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences, etc.

Also, check out <http://www.tpma.org> for more information on IPM and the Texas Pest Management Association.

Also the Texas A&M University Entomology Website address is <http://insects.tamu.edu>. You can find extension publications and much more entomology and pest management information at that site.

## Upcoming Events



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
June 15	Entomology Camp	Stiles Farm Research Center, Thrall Texas	8:30 am
June 19	Stiles Farm Field Day	Stiles Farm Research Center, Thrall Texas	8:00 am
June 26	2007 Crop Tour	Stiles Farm Research Center, Thrall Texas	8:00 am

