



Texas Cooperative Extension



# SOUTHERN BLACKLANDS Pest Management News

Williamson and Milam Counties

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## General Situation

Another week and showering of rain has falling across the Southern Blacklands. Totals for the week range from 2.0 to 7.0 inches with the majority receiving between 1.75 to 3.5 inches. This came at a great time for the developing corn and sorghum. This rain has not helped those who still have a little bit of wheat that has yet to be harvested.

## Grain Sorghum

**Sorghum midge** levels have been found in higher levels earlier this week. However, numbers that I have seen, remain below economic threshold levels. Midge numbers on blooming grain sorghum range from 12-32 per 100 head. This is the week when I was anticipating midge numbers to reach the economic threshold. It is likely that in localized areas, they are showing up in higher numbers. It is recommended that anyone who has treatable acreages of grain sorghum in bloom or yet to bloom needs to monitor the sorghum very closely until it has past bloom for midge.

**Rice stinkbugs (RSBs)** levels continue to vary across the area. However, it appears that numbers of RSBs have decreased per head over the past week. This may be due to the fact that there is more grain sorghum between milk and the medium dough stage now and that these insects spread out across the crop. In addition, a number of fields

where levels were at the economic threshold level have been sprayed and has helped reduce numbers as well.

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

## Cotton Management

The cotton crop has made put on a lot of growth over the past two weeks and has also held on to more squares. Cotton ranges from first bloom to pinhead square. Square set ranges from 56 to 91 percent with most fields ranging between 74-82 percent square set.

**Cotton fleahoppers** levels continue to persist across the area with levels ranging from 8 to 72 per 100 plants checked. Most fields have between 18 to 32 per 100 plants.

**During the first three weeks of squaring, 10 fleahoppers 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 1gal/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 have decrease over the past week for the most part. There where a number of fields that had over 25 percent of the plants infested with aphids and numbers were on the increase through late last week. However, populations of lady beetles and sryphid flies have increased rapidly and have dramatically reduced aphid levels in most of these fields.

**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 good levels of lady beetles, syrphid flies, lacewings and spiders in many fields.

**Bollworm/budworm** eggs continue to be found a little more consistent this week. Eggs range from 0 to 10 per 100 plants checked. We will probably see a peak in bollworm/budworm eggs levels by the end of next week . It will be important to continue to monitor non-Bt cotton as well as transgenic Bt cotton over the next two weeks for worm eggs and small larvae hatching out.

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 20	.3245	.0302	.0443
May 27	.0422	.0301	.1435
June 3	0	.0178	.0584
June 10	.0332	.0315	.1156

## 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.

In addition, 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 26	Williamson Co Crops Tour	Stiles Farm Research Center, Thrall Texas	8:00 am
June 28	Milam Co Crops Tour	Milam County Courthouse, Cameron, TX	8:00 am

