

2008 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

NEWSLETTER-ISSUE NO. 1

CALHOUN

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I will be monitoring Corn, Sorghum, Soybeans and Cotton fields for weed, insect pests and crop health. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed by the IPM Program, call me. Your input is how the projects that I look into are determined.

I am currently looking for summer help to work in the fields. If you know of someone who would be interested then have them call me at (552-3324 or 920-1138).

Early Season Weed Control

While planting is underway it is important to maintain weed control early in the life of the crop. The first 40 days after planting is the most critical time for weed competition. We have become accustomed to waiting until more weeds have emerged before making an herbicide application. While you may want to get the biggest bang out of your herbicides by waiting until more weeds have emerged, this can lead to yield losses from those weeds that are already competing with your crop. Below are pictures of the effect of cocklebur on soybean growth. The pictures were taken in 2005 and the weeds were controlled early when the soybeans had only 2-3 trifoliates. The plants in the affected area did not produce 30% of the grain that the adjacent plants made.



Corn and Grain Sorghum

Most of the corn has been planted and much of the sorghum has been planted. These fields are coming up quickly and seem to be off to a quick start. The primary insect in early season corn and grain sorghum is chinch bug. Adult chinch bugs are about 1/6-inch long with black bodies and reddish-yellow legs. When fully developed, the white wings are marked with a triangular black spot near the middle of the back on the outer wing margin. The insect appears to have a white "X" or white hourglass on the



back when viewed from above.

Adult and immature chinch bugs suck plant juices and cause reddening of the leaves. Damage by chinch bugs normally occurs from seedling emergence until the plants are 18 inches tall. Once in the field they congregate and feed behind the leaf sheaths of the corn plant and below-the-ground-line plant roots and crowns. The economic thresholds for chinch bugs listed in the corn and grain sorghum guides are the same: Insecticide should be applied when two or more adult chinch bugs are found on 20 percent of the seedlings less than 6 inches high. On taller plants apply insecticides when immature and adult bugs are found on 75 percent of the plants.

Soybeans

I have a few recommendations for soybean pest management. The keys to stink bug management are through escape and monitoring. Stink bug populations may be avoided by planting soybeans earlier. For the past few years, I have noticed that later planted beans had more problems with stink bugs than earlier planted beans. Planting early may also result in escaping soybean rust.

Cotton

Cotton planting will soon be underway however; a word of caution is needed. Soil temperatures have dipped below 60° each of the past several days. Planting into cold soil will slow emergence and affect yield. As the length of time between cotton planting and emergence increases past 7 days, yield can be reduced. I recommend waiting to plant cotton until the soil temperature stays above 60° for at least three consecutive days.

Below are IPM Program Supports for the 2008 Season

***South Texas Cotton and Gin
Hlavinka Equipment Company
Danevang Farmer's Coop, Inc.
Moscatelli Veterinary Clinic***

***Farmers Coop of El Campo
Moreman Community Gin
Vanderbilt Farmer's Coop***



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