

UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Matagorda

Wharton

Jackson

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VOL. 10 No. 1

<http://entowww.tamu.edu>

May 19, 2006

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TPMA Website

The Upper Coast Crop Improvement newsletter and other Extension IPM Program newsletters from across the state can be viewed at the Texas Pest Management Association website at www.tpma.org.

Upper Coast IPM Program Sponsors

Moses Gin Farmers Coop of El Campo
Farmers Gin of Palacios Vanderbilt Gin
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Cotton Insect Situation

During the past week (5/15-5/19), growth stages of cotton in Jackson, Matagorda, and Wharton counties ranged from 3 to 4 true leaf to early bloom.

Aphid numbers in fields ranged from being non-existent to very light in fields that were monitored during the past week.

Fleahopper numbers averaged 9% across all fields. Individual field numbers ranged from 0 to 49% per 100 plant terminals. Thirty percent of the fields monitored were at threshold levels justifying an insecticide application to be made.

Bollworm egg and larvae counts ranged from 0 to 4%, and 0 to 1%, respectively.

Beneficial insects found in fields included lady beetles, scymnus lady beetles, lacewings, minute pirate bugs, and syrphid flies. Other beneficial arthropods found included spiders.

Fleahopper Thresholds

The decision to apply an insecticide should be based upon the number of fleahoppers present during the squaring period of cotton. During the squaring period (3 to 4 weeks), 10 to 15 fleahoppers per 100 terminals may cause economic damage to cotton. When plants are blooming, fleahopper control is rarely justified.

Monthly Rainfall

Listed below is a comparison of the 2006 and 2005 total rainfall accumulated for the first five months of the year. Source and location of the rainfall totals were obtained from the crop weather station located at Rancho Grande Farms near Crescent in Wharton County.

Month	2006	2005
January	1.12	1.68
February	.86	4.37
March	2.60	3.99
April	1.85	1.26
May	1.03*	4.37
Total	7.46	15.42

* through the 17th of May.

Boll Weevil Trap Counts

Since 1998, a 32-mile boll weevil trap line has been run by Texas Cooperative Extension in Wharton County. To gain a historical perspective on the number of boll weevils that we use to have and the progress that has been made in controlling

this pest, see the attachment enclosed in this newsletter. When observing the attached table, be aware that the first full season of the boll weevil eradication program began in 2003.

Cotton Applied Research Field Day

On Wednesday, June 21st, a field day will be held for people involved in the cotton industry to observe some of the applied research projects that are being implemented in Wharton County. This event will kick-off by everyone meeting at the Wharton County fairgrounds. Registration will be from 9:00 to 9:30 am. The first forty-five minutes of the program will be held indoors while the remainder of the morning program will involve going outside and touring the applied research projects pertaining to herbicide systems comparison, different nitrogen rates, at-planting systemic insecticides, new cotton varieties, mepiquat chloride/pentaborate applications, and the significance of cut-out and overall lint yield. The program will conclude with a noon lunch at the fairgrounds. **For the purpose of obtaining a head count for lunch preparations, please RSVP no later than Friday, June 16th.**