

# UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Matagorda

Wharton

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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](http://www.tpma.org).

### Upper Coast IPM Program Sponsors

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### Cotton Insect Situation

During the past week (6/19-6/23), growth stages of cotton in Jackson, Matagorda, and Wharton counties ranged from early bloom through one to two weeks past cutout (NAWF=5).

**Aphid** numbers were light in fields throughout the entire three county area.

**Bollworm/budworm** egg and larvae counts ranged from 0 to 96% and 0 to 30%, respectively. Damaged square counts ranged from 0 to 5%. Forty-four percent of the conventional (non-bt fields) were above the economic thresholds which warrants an insecticide application to be made. Larvae and damaged square/boll counts in Bollgard and Widestrike fields were all below the economic thresholds. Heaviest pressure was observed in the Markam, El Maton and Tintop areas of

Matagorda County and the Hillje, El Campo and Crescent areas of Wharton County.

In conventional cotton fields, insecticide applications for bollworm/budworm control are justified during the bloom period when four to five small worms (less than ¼ inch) per 100 terminals, eggs are present, and five percent of the squares and small bolls have been damaged by worms. If worm numbers are high, it may not be appropriate to wait until the damage threshold of five percent of squares and small bolls have been damaged.

For Bt transgenic cotton fields, the entire plant should be searched for larvae and injury. A proper sample includes squares, white blooms, pink blooms, bloom tags, and bolls. Hatching larvae must first feed on the cotton plant to receive a toxic dose. Insecticide treatments should be considered when 8 to 12 larvae (larger than ¼ inch) per 100 plants are present and 5 to 15 percent of the squares or bolls are worm damaged.

**Stinkbug** pressure was monitored in fields during the past week by sampling 50 (quarter size) bolls for evidence of internal feeding damage. Internal feeding damage in individual fields ranged from 0 to 22%. Eighteen percent of the fields monitored were at the economic threshold of 20%.

In Matagorda County, **Creontiades** numbers during the past two weeks have been high in fields located near the bay.

