

# Northwest Plains Pest Management News

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Bailey and Parmer Counties

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Lower temperatures and scattered showers have brought welcomed relief to the Northwest Plains of Texas, but the area is still in desperate need of a good general soaking rain. Local weather stations have recorded .48 to 1.01 inches over the last 7 days. Additional moisture concerns are surfacing as preparations for wheat seeding commence. Currently there is not sufficient moisture available to get a wheat crop started and definitely not enough to sustain it for long. It will take a large amount of irrigation to get wheat up and growing without significant precipitation.

Most area cotton has reached physiological cutout. Cotton is considered to have reached physiological cutout when less than 5 nodes are present above the uppermost first position white flower (NAWF). Many fields have raced into cutout moving from 7-8 NAWF to 3-4 in the last week to 10 days. Most fields are a solid 2 to 3 weeks further along compared to last year.

Pests continue to be very light in most cotton fields. Bollworms have yet to make an appearance but could anytime within the next

<b>Daily Water Use</b>	
Crop	Inches per day
Corn	.30
Cotton	.29
Grain Sorghum	.23-.26
Bermuda grass	.16
Fescue/ Bluegrass	.21

<b>Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation<sup>1</sup></b>			
Location	Current	2005	Long Term <sup>2</sup>
Farwell	1322	1189	
Friona	1434	1207	
Muleshoe	1427	1168	1168
Muleshoe WR	1449	1268	

<sup>1</sup> DD 60 based on May 1

<sup>2</sup> Based on Muleshoe long term weather data 1971-2000

few weeks.

Bollworm moths are attracted to and lay eggs readily in cotton that is producing an abundance of new growth. Moths are light brown to tan and usually lay single eggs on the tops of young, tender terminal leaves in the upper third of the plant. Sometimes moths deposit eggs on squares, bolls, stems and, in general, lower parts of the plant. This may occur when cotton plants are stressed and making little new growth, or during periods of high temperature and low humidity. Detection of eggs and control of small worms are more difficult when eggs are deposited in these locations. Cotton fields should be scouted regularly during periods of predicted moth egg-laying activity. Eggs are pearly white to cream color and about half the size of a pinhead. These should not be confused with looper eggs, which are flatter and usually laid singly on the undersides of



*Bollworm moth,*  
[www.ipmimages.org](http://www.ipmimages.org)



*Bollworm eggs.*

leaves. Eggs hatch in 3 to 4 days, turning light brown before hatching. Worms are very small (1/16 inch) when they hatch. Young worms usually feed for a day or two on tender leaves, leaf buds and small squares in the plant terminal before moving down the plant to attack larger squares and bolls. Full-grown larvae are about 1 1/2 inches long. Bollworm color will vary from a uniform color of green to shades of green or brown, usually with stripes running the length of the body. When small worms are in the upper third of the plant, they are most vulnerable to control by insecticides and beneficial insects and spiders.

The established economic threshold for bollworms is **10,000** or more small worms per acre. However, if two or more key predators are present for each small worm, control measures may not be needed or a microbial insecticide may be used. The actual treatment level will vary according to the ability of the individual scout to locate small larvae, the age structure of the infestation, maturity of the crop and crop value. Individuals who are unable to easily find small larvae should consider reducing treatment level to 5,000 per acre.

**Irrigated Wheat Variety Trial Results and Recommendations**, from Brent Bean, Texas Cooperative Extension Agronomist, Amarillo, TX. Unlike last year, where TAM 111 was clearly the best variety, no one variety dominated the 2006 trials. However, in the irrigated trials several varieties consistently ranked in the top 20%. These included AP502 CL, Texas experimental entries 3232 and 1117, Duster, Hatcher, TAM 112, TAM 111, and

Keota. AP502 CL is a Clearfield wheat, which means Beyond herbicide can be used in it for control of grasses. The variety is very similar to TAM 110, with greenbug tolerance, and over the years does seem to occasionally have a higher yield. TAM 112 is greenbug tolerant, and generally yields more than TAM 110 by a couple of bushels. It should generally be positioned as a dryland or limited irrigated wheat. Hatcher is a variety released by Colorado State in 2005 and Duster is an experimental from Oklahoma State. We have very little data on these two varieties. Keota is a Westbred Company variety released in 2005. It has stripe and leaf rust resistance, and possibly some tolerance to wheat streak mosaic virus. Although TAM 111 did not have the outstanding year it had in 2005, it still ranked in the top 20 percent in 3 out of 7 locations in 2006.

#### Alfalfa Production Workshop

Texas A&M & New Mexico State are partnering for an alfalfa production workshop to be held at Hereford, TX August 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 8:45 AM Central (7:45 AM Mountain) at the Hereford Community Center. For more information, contact Rick Auckerman at (806) 364-3573. 2.5 TX & NM CEUs have been requested.

**Northwest Plains**  
  
**IPM**  
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