

Northwest Plains Pest Management News

Volume 6 Issue 13

Bailey and Parmer Counties

August 2, 2007

Scattered thunder storms have brought much needed precipitation to those lucky enough to be in their path. Rainfall amounts have varied from a trace up to 2 inches. While temperatures remain lower than those observed in the last few years crops are now progressing well. The grain crops are particularly benefiting from the mild summer. Cotton is progressing pretty well but has been unable to “make up ground” lost due to abnormally cool early season temperatures.

A trickle of Southwestern corn borer (SWCB) egg lay has been observed in the eastern part of Parmer and Bailey Counties and reports of higher numbers in Lamb County. Historically SWCB egg lay starts in the eastern parts of the county and moves west. More and more moths are



Single SWCB egg.

Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation¹			
Location	Current	2006	Long Term ²
Farwell	896	1290	
Friona	876	1398	
Muleshoe	N/A	1395	1135
Muleshoe WR	941	1417	

¹ DD 60 based on May 1

² Based on Muleshoe long term weather data 1971-2000

being observed, these moths will mate and begin laying eggs. As stated last week the action level for SWCB is when 20% or more of the plants are infested with eggs and/or small larvae.

Mites continue to “simmer” in many fields while others have had population expand to levels which justify treatment. Mites should not be allowed to build to large populations before a treatment is considered. Many current miticide options are slower acting and should be applied before a population gets out of hand.

Lygus bugs continue to be observed in area cotton in varying levels. Cotton can tolerate greater numbers of *Lygus* in the bloom stage; roughly 2 times the pre-bloom threshold. Using this guideline the current action level would be 2 *Lygus* bugs/3 row feet or about 8,800/acre. If a sweep net is used to sample 15-20 *Lygus* bugs/100 sweeps would be a good place to start considering treatment. The presence

Daily Water Use	
Crop	Inches per day
Corn	.27
Cotton	.20
Grain Sorghum	.22
Bermuda grass	.14
Fescue/ Bluegrass	.19

of nymphs indicates that there is a resident population. If no nymphs are observed the infestation is likely migrant and may not justify treatment but should be monitored very closely. Lygus eggs generally require about a week to hatch.

Aphids are present in most cotton fields and populations are expanding in some. Harsh insecticide treatments may cause a secondary outbreak of aphids. There are several products (Carbine, Trimax, Provado, Vydate, etc) available which are



Lady beetle larva.

softer on beneficials but still provide adequate control of plant bugs. A pyrethroid application for plant bugs would be a high risk investment and should be avoided if possible. An alternative, but still risky option would be Bidrin which may suppress the aphids but will be harsh on beneficials. A second and less risky alternative may be a combination of a pyrethroid for plant bugs and Intruder for aphids.

Greenbugs and mites continue to be observed in area grain sorghum. Densities have ranged from an occasional sighting to worrisome. A section 24c emergency use exemption for the use of Oberon on seed sorghum for mites has been approved by Texas Department of Agriculture. This is a special local needs exemption and **only** applies to sorghum produced for seed.

Alfalfa Workshop August 9, 2007

Texas A&M & New Mexico State are partnering for an alfalfa production workshop to be held at Farwell, TX August 9th. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM Central (7:30 AM Mountain) at the Farwell Community Center, 207 Ninth Street (turn two blocks south off of U.S. 84 at Ninth). Program topics include alfalfa production, weed control, variety selection, and a field visit to discuss insects and alfalfa management. The program will be jointly conducted by staff from New Mexico State and Texas A&M. Lunch and an alfalfa crop book is included in the \$20 registration fee, and the program will conclude at 1 PM. To pre-register for the meal or for further information, contact Parmer Co. Extension, (806) 481-3619; Calvin Trostle, Texas Cooperative Extension agronomist, Lubbock, (806) 746-6101; or Mark Marsalis, NMSU-Clovis agronomist, (505) 985-2292. CEUs have been requested for both New Mexico



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