

Northwest Plains Pest Management News

Volume 8 Issue 6

Bailey and Parmer Counties

June 24, 2010

Recent precipitation has been highly variable in the area, amounts ranging from 0 to 2+ inches have been reported recently. Local weather stations have recorded 2.07 (Farwell), 2.05 (Friona), 2.13 (Muleshoe), and .7 (MWR) inches from June 1 through June 23.

Wheat harvest continues full bore; reported yields have ranged from 25 to 80+ irrigated and 10 to 40 dryland. In many cases yields have surprised producers for the good and bad. The old saying “promising more and delivering less and promising less and delivering more” seems to fit much of the area wheat this year .

Cotton should be regularly monitored for square robbing pests but one should remember that all square loss is not necessarily caused by insects. In many cases environmental conditions and other crop stressors will induce significant square shed. Cotton fleahoppers, Lygus and stink bugs have been observed in area cotton this week. Populations thus far have been sub-threshold but we are still early in the square setting

Daily Water Use	
Crop	Inches per day
Corn	.26-.36
Cotton	.15
Sorghum	.12-.20
Bermuda Grass	.22
Fescue/ Bluegrass	.30

Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation¹			
Location	Current	2009	Long Term ²
Farwell	581	499	
Friona	597	478	
Muleshoe	612	523	473
Muleshoe WR	621	547	

¹ DD 60 based on May 1

² Based on Muleshoe long term weather data 1971-2000

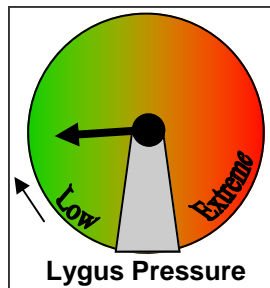
period. Higher than normal populations of Lygus (for this time of year) have been reported in western Cochran County and I would include western Bailey in that as well.



Lygus Adult

The genus Lygus includes many closely related insects. Thirty or so species of Lygus exist in North America. Exact identification to species is very difficult and many times area Lygus populations may be a combination of several species. The most common species observed in the United

States is Lygus



lineolaris, and Lygus hesperus, which are commonly referred to as the "tarnished plant bug" and the "western tarnished plant bug" respectively. Lygus hesperus is likely the

dominant specie in the Northwest Plains of Texas. Lygus bugs have a wide host range which includes many cultivated crops and weeds such as alfalfa, beans and peas, potato, Russian thistle, clovers, vetches, mustard and dock. Cotton is not the preferred host, many times high populations in cotton are associated with alfalfa or potato production and/or other preferred wild hosts.

Adults are 1/4 inch long, have a conspicuous triangle in the center of the back, are winged, and vary in color from pale green to yellowish brown with reddish brown to black markings.

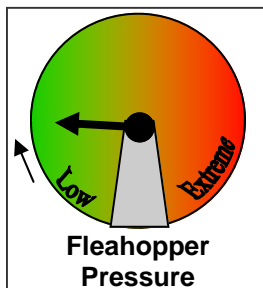
The established action threshold for Lygus in the first two weeks of squaring is 8/100 sweeps and unacceptable square set.

Cotton fleahopper adults and nymphs have been observed in area cotton. Adult fleahoppers are yellowish green to almost white and approximately 1/8 inch long with an



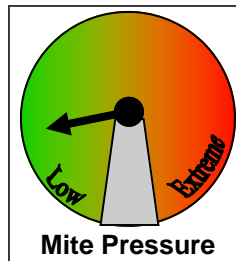
Cotton fleahopper nymph.

oval flattened shaped body. They have piercing and sucking mouthparts. Cotton fleahoppers, especially nymphs, have a somewhat translucent appearance. Small black specks may also be present on the back, legs, and antennae. Fleahoppers are very flighty and will rapidly move when disturbed.



The action level for cotton fleahopper is 25-

30/100 plants and insufficient square set. Most corn is in the V6 to V12 stage and is

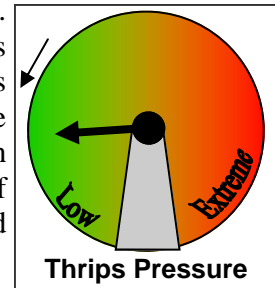


growing rapidly. **Spider mite** pressure has remained fairly static this week. Spider mites can not reproduce as rapidly in vegetative corn as they can in corn which has reached reproductive

stage (tassel and beyond). Key predators observed feeding on mites include thrips, minute pirate bugs, and lacewing larvae. Conservation of these natural enemies should be the basis of spider mite management plans will provide stability to the production system.

Thrips pressure has continued to decline in most area cotton fields.

Nearly all cotton is "out of the woods" as far as thrips damage goes, once cotton reaches the 5 true leaf stage it is considered safe from thrips.



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