



News about Integrated Pest Management for producers in Castro and Lamb Counties.

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GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Cotton

After last weeks rains cotton producers may be feeling better than a week or two ago when hot temperatures and dry weather dominated the area. Many producers were on the verge of plowing up some cotton acres where moisture ran out and stands were not as good as what you would like to see. The rains that we received may have saved a lot of replanting for many producers. South of Dimmitt we did receive some hail on the night of May 30th. I have had reports of some hailed out cotton in that area. Program cotton fields are primarily in the 1-2 true leaf stage with some fields that have 4 true leaves. I have been noticing quite a bit of wind damage to some of the newly formed leaves and of course thrips damage as well.

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Corn

Corn fields are looking very good. Producers continue to have to meet moisture demands through irrigation and so far the corn has really responded to the hot temperatures where moisture has been sufficient. Corn fields are ranging from just emerging to whorl stage corn.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton

The main concern as far as pests in cotton at this time are weeds and thrips. Thrips continue to infest young cotton plants and cause damage to leaves and the terminal area of cotton plants. Newly forming leaves are the most vulnerable to thrips and the damage that they cause. Thrips cause leaves to curl up and also may cause the leaves to have a silver appearance at feeding sites. The economic threshold for thrips is one thrips per true leaf present. So if your cotton has 2 true leaves than the economic threshold would be an average of 2 thrips per plant. This threshold should only be used if there was not a preventative insecticide used at planting. Preventative insecticides are materials such as Temik, Cruiser, or Gaucho Grande. If a preventative treatment was used than use the above stated threshold of number of thrips equal to the number of true leaves present, but there must also be 30% immature thrips present. The reason that we use the 30% rule is that if only adult thrips are present than we can assume that there is not any reproduction occurring in the field. Also immature thrips are the main culprits for feeding damage. Previous research has indicated that materials used as a preventative measure may “play out” and so an additional foliar treatment may be warranted. So be sure to continue to scout for thrips pressures even if you did use an at planting insecticide. Keep in mind also that you should not wait until you see the damage from thrips before making an insecticide application. Research also indicated that the additional foliar application is economically advantageous for the producer.

A reminder to watch for the 5th true leaf if you have Round-up Ready cotton. Remember that applications of Round-up made after the 5th true leaf could cause some reductions in yield. More importantly spray your weeds based on the size and stage of the weeds and not so much the stage of the cotton. This is true especially with the RR Flex system. The weed size and stage should determine when your Round-up application is made.

Corn

Reports of spider mites infesting the edges of corn fields continue. With the hot temperatures and dry weather patterns we can expect to continue finding spider mite infestations. There are a few treatment options available first would be beneficial insects such as thrips and other insects, the others would be chemical applications of miticides. There are three miticides that could provide some control of spider mites in corn Oberon, Onager, and Comite. These materials should be applied to corn fields early and used as more of a preventative treatment than a rescue treatment. The only of these materials that could be used as a curative treatment is Oberon. Oberon should still be applied before mite populations exceed thresholds. So in reality there really is no rescue treatment for spider mites in corn. The best thing is to scout corn fields and determine if spider mite colonies are establishing, also be sure to acknowledge the presence of beneficial insects within the population.

Heat Unit Accumulations For Cotton As of May 1st-June 5th

	2004	2005	2006
Dimmitt	332.5	228.5	373.5
Earth		288.5	388

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