



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

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GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Cotton

Pivots continue to irrigate heavily over cotton fields in the area and those producers that are able to meet irrigation demands have some good looking cotton fields. Those fields that are moisture stressed are not growing very well and new leaves are not developing as quickly as some of the other fields. The good thing is that we do have a chance of rain for this weekend so we all need to continue praying for those chances. Program cotton fields range in growth stage from 3-4 true leaves to pinhead square.

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Corn

Corn continues to grow well where moisture is adequate. There are still some guys finishing up corn planting at this time but most of that will go to silage. Corn fields range from just planted to late whorl.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton

All program cotton fields have grown beyond the 4th true leaf and so we have switched our focus from thrips to cotton fleahoppers. For those producers who still have cotton that has less than 4 true leaves you need to continue to scout for thrips. Thrips can cause as much as a 20% decrease in yield and control of this pest is fairly cheap and most definitely worth the money and effort. Remember that the threshold is the number of thrips present is equal to the number of true leaves present. At this stage of the game I would recommend that you make sure 30% of the thrips you are finding are wingless immatures. As I mentioned we have now changed our focus over to fleahoppers in cotton. Fleahoppers are about 1/8 inch long and pale green. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and are light green. Fleahoppers move very rapidly when they are disturbed. Fleahoppers move into cotton fields from weed hosts when cotton begins to square. Pinhead size and smaller squares are the most susceptible to damage from this pest. Economic thresholds for this pest are based on the number of fleahoppers detected and also square set. During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25-30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90% square set. During the second week of squaring the number of fleahoppers remains the same but the square set threshold is 85% and 75% during the third week of squaring. We have found very few cotton fleahoppers this week and square sets remain well above 95% in program fields that have started to square. Overall this week insect pest pressures remain very light.

Corn

We have started to detect feeding damage to the whorl area of the corn plants in program fields. Most of this damage is being done by corn earworms but we have also found a few of the armyworm species as well. This is pretty typical for this time of the year and damage from these pests at this time of the year rarely warrants and insecticide application. However, I would scout corn fields and be sure that these type of pests are not causing severe damage. Also, first generation southwestern corn borer infestations should be getting near. Spider mite infestations appear to be declining in program fields. I have noticed some really good beneficial insect numbers in our corn fields and they may be helping to keep mite populations in check.

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

2006

Dimmitt	519.5
Earth	541.0

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