



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

Emilio Niño, Castro/Lamb EA-IPM

Telephone (806) 647-4116 Fax (806) 647-3218 E-mail: e-nino@tamu.edu

Dist. 2 Website: <http://lubbock.tamu.edu>

GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Cotton

Finally, some measurable rainfall across the area. Rainfall amounts from last Thursday night-Friday Morning ranged from .5" to 1.1" in Castro and Lamb Counties. Parts of the two county area received up to .75" over the weekend as well. This was about as timely of a rainfall as you could ask for as many producers were worried about moisture stress in cotton. Program cotton fields have been squaring now for about 2-3 weeks and so moisture demands were increasing daily with temperatures in the mid to upper 90's coupled with high winds. Square sets have remained in the 90 percentile this week in all program fields that we have checked so far. Wind damage is certainly visible in all program fields and we continue to see blasted squares that I feel are the result of blowing wind and sand. Insect pest activity remains very light in all program fields.

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Corn

The rainfall will benefit corn producers just as much as it will cotton producers. Before the rains, corn fields were beginning to wilt and show signs of moisture stress. The lower temperatures and moisture will definitely help corn producers catch up with moisture demands. Corn fields have began to tassel and I have even heard reports of fields that are in the green silk stage. Things are looking positive at this time for corn producers as far as corn production goes.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton

We continue to find very little activity in the form of insect pest in program fields this week. We continue to scout for fleahoppers and lygus bug pressures. Fleahopper activity is very light, the heaviest pressure we have found this week was a field west of Dimmitt that had 5 fleahoppers/100 terminals. Remember the threshold is 30 fleahoppers/100 terminals coupled with a square set of 90% during the first week of squaring, 85% during the second week of squaring and 75% during the third week of squaring. I can not emphasize enough the importance of scouting your fields for fleahopper pressures and actually seeing the pest. It is important that you do not treat fields just because of low square sets. This is especially true this season with the type of weather we have been experiencing. As I mentioned above, many of the aborted squares are due to climatic conditions and not insect damage. Lygus bug numbers remain very light this week as well.

Heat Unit Accumulations For Cotton As of May 1st-June 27th

	2006
Dimmitt	743
Earth	752

**Happenings in Ag is a publication of Texas Cooperative Extension
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**Emilio Niño, EA-IPM
Castro/Lamb Counties**

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