

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about Integrated Pest Management in Hockley and Cochran Counties

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- * Current Crop and Pest Situation
- * Aphids and Suggested Insecticides
- * Cotton Blooms

Current Crop and Pest Situation

Cotton continues to rock along relatively pest free. Most cotton aphids which were increasing a couple of weeks ago have now been mostly cleaned up by beneficials. There are still some hot spots which need to be monitored to make sure they do not build and spread. I have seen some light bollworm damage in southern reaches of both counties, but worm survival has been very low. Water continues to be the most limiting factor. I have seen some verticillium wilt symptoms scattered in fields which are primarily associated with the cotton root-knot nematodes which are present. Chris Locke, Crop Consultant called and said he is finding wilt especially in Flex varieties. Understand that there is not much one can do now for this problem. Do not back off the water and add more stress. Chris mentioned a good point about cultivation. Cultivating weeds has been a necessity this year, however, in those fields with wilt the root pruning from this activity will put the plant under further stress and could make the wilt even worse. So stop this activity in those situations. This

is the first year we have had a chance to screen many of these new varieties. So make note of which fields are bad and what varieties you are using, and be looking for our list of varieties which hold up better in these situations for next year.

I pulled a random plant from two fields near Levelland Thursday morning. From the first field which has been well watered and was fortunate to have caught some rainfall this last month we see a plant which has excellent plant development. It has 17 total nodes; first



fruiting node at 7th node; 5 first position bolls; 100% retention of bolls and squares; 5 nodes above uppermost 1st position white flower (physiological cut-out); and is 22" tall for a 1.3" height to node ratio. This is a very good plant and a great

physiological development point to be looking at the calendar.

The next plant just began to flower at the node 7; it has 14 total nodes; 100% fruit

retention; 7 nodes above white flower; is also 22" tall for a height to node ration of 1.6".

Obviously this plant is much younger physiologically. Though not an ideal place to be in development it has time to mature a good crop. If we take the 7 nodes above the white flower and say 60 heat units are needed to go from node to node or basically 3 days than it would take approximately 21 days for those 7

nodes to develop into small bolls. We generally consider August 20 as near to the last effective bloom date or a date when a bloom will make a harvestable boll. If we mature just 6 of those 7-8 bolls alone on 37,000 plants per acre on moderate irrigation to provide 350 bolls to make a pound of lint. Do the math and you could be looking at 634 lbs lint. Now that is baring any other bumps in the road. I will spare you the calculations for the first plant. You probably would not believe it anyway.

Cotton Bollworm Resistance

As many of you know I have participated in the statewide monitoring of cotton bollworm resistance to pyrethroids since 2003. I have run this vial testing already this season and will continue through the end of the season. However, I wanted to share with you some comments made by Dr. Patricia Pietrantonio, Insect Toxicology, College Station.

"Your population is as susceptible as the Burleson population of Sept 05 which we used for the calculation of resistance ratios. We are using this one because it is more susceptible than the laboratory colony that we have.

Your LC90 is just a bit higher than the Burleson one but I do not anticipate any field control problems. Thanks for your collaboration."...Patricia.

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