

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley and
Cochran Counties
from Kerry Siders.



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Partners with Nature

GENERAL SITUATION

The weather pattern continues this week with some scattered rainfall and moderate temperatures. In general the rain has been a welcome blessing. It will help the irrigated acres and for certain the dryland acres. Temperatures and sunlight have generally remained at an optimum for the past few weeks with exception of a couple cloudy, cooler mornings.

COTTON

Based on the IPM Scouting Program cotton fields the average number of total nodes is 12 (range 5 to 14); the 1st fruiting branch at 8 (range 6-9); 96% (range 87-100%) square retention of 1st position; node length is 0.88" (range of 0.5"-1.4"), and plant populations average 42,500 per acre (range 26,000 to 61,000). I have seen only two fields in all of Hockley and Cochran counties blooming so far. Based on average plant mapping data and going into bloom with 8 nodes above white flower, we should generally begin bloom around July 20th. This also means that 50% of the acres could bloom before this date and 50% will bloom after this date. I suspect a majority of the acres in Hockley county will begin blooming around July 25-30. This is later than what we would like to see. However, with a last effective bloom date of August 20, that still gives us almost four weeks of effective blooming. So prospects are still good.

Cotton pests are generally very quiet currently. Plant growth regulators (PGR's) and weed control has been the order of the day for the past several days. Under current conditions, cotton producers need to consider those varieties which need help from a PGR in balancing vegetative growth with reproductive growth.

Cotton fleahopper numbers continue to remain very low with few exceptions. Lygus adults are very hard to find this week. No aphids have been noted this week. I would attribute this to the slight increase of beneficial insects. No bollworm eggs or larvae were found this week in scouting fields.

The cotton root-knot nematodes have taken their toll on fields which were not been protected at-plant by Temik or by seed treatments such as Aeris or Avicta. Those producers who then applied Vydate at 17 oz at first square have seen additional protection from cotton root-knot nematodes. The symptoms/stress has been alleviated somewhat by rain. However, those fields which are infested will translate into loss of yield potential.



A majority of producers have done an excellent job of cleaning up weeds. With this moisture be prepared for another flush of weeds such as morningglory, carelessweed, and prairie sunflower.

PEANUTS

Peanuts are doing very well under current conditions. Weed control still remains as pest priority number one. Dr. Jason Woodward, Extension Plant Pathologist and I viewed a few peanut fields about ten days ago and were hard pressed to find much to be concerned about. Many questions and comments have come in about crinkled and cupped leaves, especially in Spanish peanuts acres. This is due to old thrips damage which would have occurred a month ago. It is more pronounced in Spanish because they do not produce foliage as rapidly as a runner or Virginia type. Another concern this week has been the yellowing or light green color. This would be due to the cloudy weather. Remember, iron chlorosis occurs as interveinal chlorosis, not complete leaf chlorosis. Once the sun comes back out they will green back up. This is a normal situation on chalky soils after a rain or even irrigation. So be careful not to spend too much on trying to correct this. You can't buy sunlight. Do pay attention to crown and foliar disease possibilities.

GRAIN SORGHUM

Sorghum ranges from still in the bag to boot stage. Whorl feeding by larvae pest has been common. This shot hole feeding is of no concern unless it is actually damaging the growing point. Keep watch for yellow sugar cane aphids.

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