

AgriLIFE EXTENSION

Texas A&M System

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



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Partners with Nature

Current Crop and Pest Situation

Scattered showers to begin this week for some, and low 90 degree temperatures for all is adding up to a relatively good finish for most. As we move into the next 10 to 14 days the decision on irrigation termination will need to be made. In general I would say that most everyone needs to be prepared to keep the water going on pivots until the last week of this month, unless rains set in and provide at the least 0.25" per day. Obviously, siderolls and row-water irrigation should be complete very soon if not already; drip will begin tapering off over the next 4 weeks.

A majority of the cotton crop in Hockley and Cochran counties has an average of 3.8 nodes above white flower (NAWF) with a range of 2-6 NAWF. Based on actual heat unit accumulations, from our own National Weather Service observer data, we have been averaging 19.6 heat units per day the last 7 days. This is optimum range for heat unit accumulation. Therefore, the plant is maturing from one node to the next along the main stem every 3 days. In other words if the 16th node is blooming today it will take 60 more heat units for the 17th node to bloom. If you are racking up 20 HU per day that is only 3 days. This is also dependent on solar quality. Cloudy days will slow the process as well. I also want to remind you that we are at or very near the period of time when the likelihood of a bloom developing into a harvestable boll is a very low. I suspect that the last boll has now been set this week. I say this because eighty percent of the fields I have visited this week I have seen most all fruit less than a 4 day old boll being shed from the plant. So do not blame it on worms, or some other lack of management. Also, this is not a bad thing as it allows those 1st position bolls, which by the way have been retained at very high percentile this year, to achieve maximum weight.

Cotton bollworms still have not developed into a threat. Although reports to the south of us have reported some activity and some local fields have pushed to near 3,000 small worms per acre we still have not found treatable levels of cotton bollworms. Conditions weather wise and crop wise are very ripe for problems. So keep scouting, especially those fields with more than 4 nodes above white flower. Fields which are "bolloed out the top" will not be as attractive to egg laying moths.

Cotton aphids are being found more consistently from field to field now, albeit in very low numbers (<10/leaf) and very spotty in a field. I anticipate beneficial insects will keep most of these in check. The biggest concern will be late fertilized fields or those with excess nitrogen.

PEANUTS

Keep close watch for late leaf spot and rots to pods. The conditions created during this heavy irrigation period are conducive for the development of these problems.

REMEMBER

This is a good time of year to begin sampling fields for nematodes. This can help with next year's decisions about at-plant nematicides.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 25th - Subsurface Drip Irrigation Field Day @ Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Halfway 9-3

September 10 - Hockley Ag Expo, Hockley County Fairgrounds, Levelland 10-2

September 24 - Pesticide Applicators Training, Extension Office, Levelland 1 pm

September 16th - West Texas Ag Chem Institute Conference, Reese, Lubbock

October 12-16 - Pesticide Collection Slaton, Seagraves and Snyder, see flyer for more details

My Priority List for Next Few Weeks

1. Watch for any insect pest development over the next 14 days
2. Water enough to keep stress off, yet not too much to promote any new growth
3. Know those approximate dates when you will be safe from insect damage and when you can terminate irrigation, (see last issue of West Plains IPM Update, 8/7/09)
4. Make notes now of what worked and what did not (weed control, growth regulators, etc.) for future reference before you forget.

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE is a publication of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley and Cochran Counties.

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