



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Vital Crop Production Information for **Crosby** and **Floyd** Counties

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☛ Cotton planting is done for the most part with ‘skippy’ stands the rule in the dryer areas, or over sub-surface, drip-irrigated fields that did not receive supplemental, surface - applied irrigation.

☛ Most irrigated cotton, that has come up to a marginal to good stand, ranges from cotyledon to eight true leaves with ‘environmental’ effects evident in most; symptomology including purple spots with necrotic centers, primarily on the cotyledon leaves. Generally, true leaves haven’t shown this in most fields.

Dryland fields run the gamut from seed not emerging and beginning to rot to a weak stand where little moisture has been accumulated to a fair stand in areas of recent, timely rains.

☛ Thrips numbers (and damage) are slowly increasing. The amount of stress that the young cotton plants are experiencing now with hot, dry winds is further compounded by thrips feeding. Even sub-threshold thrips numbers are taking their toll on this young crop. The plants will eventually recover, hopefully, but the delay that has been caused by this insect is intangible.

☛ Grasshoppers have not been observed so far in Program fields, but this certainly is a potential problem in our area.

☛ Heat unit accumulations continue to progress rapidly. As of **June 8, 2006**;

Heat Unit Accumulation

<u>Five yr.</u> <u>Avg.</u>	<u>Jan. 1/06</u> <u>to Date</u>	<u>May 1/05</u> <u>to Date</u>	<u>May 1/06</u> <u>to Date</u>
705	763	446	522

☛ Squash bug populations are beginning to increase in Program pumpkin fields, but sub-economic at this time. Eggs were found last Wednesday on less than 1% of plants monitored, with mating adults found adjacent to less than 10% of those plants. Most fields range from cotyledon to eight true leaves and, a very few transplanted plants are beginning to bloom.

Most pumpkin fields that were pre-watered have sufficient moisture through two feet with the third foot completely dry behind last year’s cotton crop.

☛ There will be a series of Crosby and Lubbock Counties joint “Mid-Season Cotton Management” meetings on June 29th. Dr. Randy Boman has been scheduled to appear along with Extension Agents from both counties to discuss Plant Growth Regulators and the potential for their use in 2006. More details as planning for these meetings come together. All cotton producers in our region are welcome to attend - more details next week.

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