



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

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

Steve Davis - Extension Agent - IPM - 201 West Aspen, Suite 011 - Crosbyton, Texas 79322
office phone: (806) 675-2426 *cell:* (806) 789-7912 *fax:* (806) 675-2348

E-mail: sgdavis@ag.tamu.edu

Websites: <http://crosby-tx.tamu.edu/> or <http://entowww.tamu.edu/extension/>

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☛ Crosby/Floyd IPM Program irrigated cotton has made drastic developmental changes this last week. Most Program cotton is beginning to square with a few earlier planted fields in their second week. Square set % is in the low 90's with a few fruiting forms being lost to heat and wind burn. Dryland cotton has received a welcome general rain which came in the “nick of time” - most would have been lost within a week had this not occurred. Rainfall amounts recorded for **June 22** in the area are:

Lorenzo COOP Gin - 1.0 “

Blanco Gin - 0.9 “

Owens Gin - (approximately) 3.0 “

ACG, Crosbyton - 1.3 “

Payne Irrigation (Ralls) - 2”

McAdoo - 0.2 “

Volunteer cotton has been controlled with cultivations, for the most part, and stands are much more aesthetically pleasing. Several fields maintain a volunteer population within the row which may serve to improve some of the skippy stands that would otherwise be present.

☛ Thrips numbers remain but at sub-economic levels, and developmentally, most cotton in our area is past the thrips threat.

☛ No cotton fleahopper problems have been reported so far this year in Program cotton. Scouting every 4-5 days is necessary for ‘fleas’, and should be concentrated adjacent to weedy areas where movement of this pest into young, squaring cotton is likely. Again, the Texas Cooperative Extension publications E-6 and E-6A, “Managing Cotton Insects” and “Suggested Insecticides for Managing Cotton Insects” (on the High Plains, Rolling Plains, and Trans Pecos Areas of Texas) are useful in making decisions regarding this and other pests of cotton.

These publications may be accessed by linking to

<http://tcebookstore.org/pubbrowse.cfm?catid=117> . Hard copies of these publications are available at your local County Extension office.

☛ Heat unit accumulations as of **June 22, 2006**;

Heat Unit Accumulation

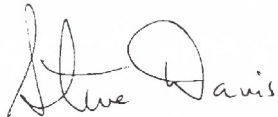
Five yr. Avg.	Jan. 1/06 to Date	May 1/05 to Date	May 1/06 to Date
960	1,082	624	820

☛ **Cucurbit Crops:** Squash bug egg are beginning to hatch in Program pumpkin fields with multiple egg masses on the majority of older, larger-leaf varieties. Squash bugs can be devastating in large numbers, especially if the plant is stressed from simple growth needs (vining and blooming) and/or moisture deficit. “Anasa wilt” is the term for the effect of feeding by this pest. Regrettably, heat and low humidities have not taken their toll on squash bug eggs. Two Program pumpkin fields will be treated this week for this pest as the young nymphal stage is the “weak link” suitable for insecticide applications. Of course, not all eggs will hatch on the same day and multiple treatments approximately 7 to 10 days apart may be necessary - only repetitive and frequent scouting will provide needed information. Usually, once the majority of the population is suppressed, plant growth exceeds parasitism and plants are able to progress normally. Several adult squash bugs can be found in most cucurbit fields meaning that fresh eggs will be deposited until the squash bug population is limited. Program fields range from just emerging to 5 to 8 true leaves with a few older plantings beginning to bloom.

• **Meetings of interest:**

- 1) There will be two "Mid-Season Cotton Management" meetings for Crosby and Lubbock Counties on Thursday, June 29th. Dr. Randy Boman has been scheduled to appear along with Extension Agents from Lubbock and Crosby counties to discuss mid- and late-season cotton management. The first meeting will be at the **Acuff COOP Gin at 8:00 a.m.** with the second to follow at the **Lorenzo Community Room** beginning at **10:00 a.m.** with lunch co-sponsored by Brent Jacob of "In-Time Imaging", and Matt Wilmeth of "Security State Bank", of Idalou. All cotton producers in our region are welcome to attend. Please **RSVP** to (806) 675-2426 by Wednesday the 28th if you plan on attending the **Lorenzo** meeting so that an adequate number of lunches may be prepared.
- 2) Also, on **July 11th**, Dr. Randy Boman and/or Dr. Mark Kelley will be at the **Associated Cotton Growers Gin** in Crosbyton and the **Floydada COOP Gin** in Floydada for "turn-row" meetings to discuss general cotton progress and potential for the 2006 crop.

Texas Cooperative Extension will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities attending Extension programs. It is requested that contact be made at least one week in advance to advise of the auxiliary aid and/or service required. Extension programs are designed to serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. Services provided by the Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas, Cooperating.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Davis". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.