



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Vital Crop Production Information for Crosby and Floyd Counties

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☛ Cotton planting is underway - average ten-day minimum soil temperatures reached and held at the 60 degree or above threshold beginning last Thursday. Some planted earlier, but it will take several more days before we have emergence to “row” cotton plants.

☛ Growers should be aware of the thrips potential from wheat this year. So many wheat fields have turned out well that thrips numbers are almost guaranteed to be high. Seedling cotton plants are quite susceptible and may not show much effect until the first true leaves have distended. Thrips will not let this happen naturally and leaves may show a curling and/or “mouse-eared” appearance. Seed that has not been treated with specific insecticides to control thrips will need foliar applications to allow on-time leaf development. Thrips can set a crop back if not managed properly - the young cotton plant needs to photosynthesize, and will not do so adequately if leaf surface area is limited.

☛ 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 thrips and other pests of cotton. These publications may be accessed by linking to <http://tcebookstore.org/pubbrowse.cfm?catid=117> .

Please call this office if questions arise regarding thrips or other insect-related subjects.

☛ Heat unit accumulations (HU) are minimal at this time as the cooler spring temperatures have limited daily maximum temps. This last week end should have allowed accumulation of the adequate HU to allow for germination. More on this in the next issue.

☛ Cucurbit producers will be planting soon and should be aware of Squash bugs, especially in those fields adjacent to good overwintering sites.

☛ A large number of squash bug problems can be prevented by using good sanitation practices, a valued premise of Integrated Pest Management theory. Leaving culled fruit and harvest equipment (trailers, pallets and storage boxes), and allowing the development of volunteer plants to progress in or near cucurbit fields, allows squash bugs an excellent overwintering habitat and food supply in the fall and volunteer plants, consequently, will provide a food source for establishing an early foot-hold in the spring. The old adage “ounce of prevention” is applicable in this case.

☛ I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our Bulletin Board Cooperators for posting this newsletter and other Extension materials. They are a valued outlet for the dissemination of material to clientele in our area. Please support these businesses in your area: **Crosby Co.:** Pleasant Hill Coop, Lorenzo Coop Gin, Blanco Gin, Owens Coop Gin, Associated Cotton Growers, C&R Gin, Crosby Co. Fuel Assoc. - Crosbyton, Ralls and Lorenzo, Crosbyton Seed Co., and Owens Coop Gin.

Floyd Co.: South Plains Gin, Lockney Coop Gin, McCoy Gin, D& J Gin, Floydada Coop Gin, Scott Gin, Sterley Gin, Producers Farm Store, Sandhill Elevator, Raceway Fuel, Providence Farm Supply, Producers Coop Farm Store, and Barwise Elevator & Farm Store.

☛ **“Meetings of Interest”:**

- **June 1:** High Plains Scout School, Ollie Liner Center, Plainview. Free admission, lunch on your own - registration begins at 8:00 a.m., meeting at 8:30 a.m. You may call this office or the Hale County Extension Office, Greg Cronholm, Hale County IPM Agent (806) 291-5274, for additional information.

☛ Swarming honey bees have been reported over the area during the last two months. As the environment goes, so goes the feral bee population - with adequate rainfall and numerous flowering plants in the Caprock area, the potential for bee swarms is great. Mr. Mark Griffith is our resource bee specialist and will be happy to assist clientele with their bee problems, should they exist.

☛ **Kyle Kight** and I have successfully planted the majority of demonstration plots in Crosby County. I would like to thank **Dr. Randy Boman**, Regional Cotton Specialist, and **Dr. Mark Kelley**, Cotton Program Specialist, for procuring cotton seed to allow us to work with new cotton varieties. A special thanks also to Marty Davis and Robbie Karr, Crosbyton, Lloyd, Lonnie and David Arthur, Ralls, and Dee Abell, Ralls, as they have allowed us to infringe upon their time to establish demonstration plots on their farms. We hope to complete demonstrations in cotton varieties, plant growth regulator

usage, and moisture block monitoring in drip-irrigated fields with these gentlemen this year. Last, but certainly not least, **Thanks** to all the seed companies which have donated their products to be viewed in these demonstration plots. These plots may be viewed throughout the season - please call for directions if you choose to investigate these fields on your own.

☛ A special thanks to Scott Orr at the High Plains Underground Water District #1 for providing equipment to help with irrigation field research this year.

☛ For all those producers who have chosen to participate in our field monitoring program, and others who support the local Extension program in Crosby and Floyd Counties, too numerous to mention in this writing, **Thanks** for your contribution to the Crosby and Floyd Integrated Pest Management Program.

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