



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

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

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☛ Cotton planting was interrupted for a solid week, but should be in full swing as early as Tuesday May 15th, all things considered. Just about all local Gin rainfall accumulations in our two-county area reported at least 2" of rain for the week. Some of our trial plots were “rowable” by Thursday, 10th, that were planted a full week prior. Sunshine was lacking, however, and yellow plants were the norm.

☛ It’s been mentioned already, but 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. Even though some producers choose to have seed treated for thrips infestations, even those treated seed may be overwhelmed by extremely large numbers of pests present at one time.

☛ Again, 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. A hard-copy of these publications may be accessed at your local County Extension Office.

☛ Heat unit accumulations (HU) remain minimal at this time as cool temperatures dominated last week. Mother’s Day week end should have allowed accumulation of adequate HU to allow for adequate germination and emergence. Accumulations as of May 9 for 2007 and previous year’s (comparison time frame) were:

Five yr. Avg.	Jan. 1/07 to Date	May 1/06 to Date	May 1/07 to Date
254	148	311	60

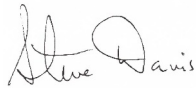
It is assumed, from these numbers, that HU accumulations from Jan. 1 and May 1, 2007, may be lacking. March, April and May 2006 were extremely warm, seemingly placing us in a deficit situation for 2007, by comparison. However, it is still early and HU accumulation will certainly be on track with a couple of weeks of warm weather. With our current “underground season”, cotton should essentially jump out of the ground. Cotton plants need only 78 HU to produce an emerged seedling plant (chart on the next page shows HU required for differing stages of cotton plant development).

☛ “Meetings of Interest”:

- **June 1:** High Plains Scout School, Ollie Linder 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.

HU needed	Growth Stage
0	Seeding
78	Emerg.
500	1st Square
1000	1st Bloom
1400	Max. Bloom
1750	1st Open Boll
1850	25% Open
1925	50% Open
2100	95% Open
2500	Harvest

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