



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Vital Crop Production Information for Crosby and Floyd Counties

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☛ Most irrigated Program cotton is past peak bloom, with 3 to 7 NAWF (most hovering at cut out), to “hard” cutout (dryland), at 0 to 3 NAWF. Maturity has been accelerated this past week with very dry conditions experienced.

☛ Heat unit accumulations (HU) as of **August 16, 2007**, and previous year’s (comparison time frame) were:

5 yr Avg. Jan. 1	Jan 1 ' 07 to Date	5 yr Avg. 1-May	May 1' 07 to Date
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1938	1542	1799	1497
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To arrive at a figure which suits your specific planting date regarding HU accumulation, utilize the following link; http://deltaandpine.com/tools_WTX_weather.asp , which is provided by DeltaPine Seed.

☛ Cotton aphid colonies have rebounded in some fields over the last 5 to 7 days with the lack of humidity in the more open-canopy fields. Colonies are establishing again on new blooms and in terminals that have escaped the formation of the natural fungus organism which appeared ten days ago and/or have not been treated with insecticide. Even though it would seem that aphid colonies were declining generally, continued close monitoring will need to be maintained for additional re-infestations. When bolls begin to open, the potential “sticky cotton” can be catastrophic for area cotton.

☛ Beneficial arthropods remain present but numbers have dropped-off where aphid colonies have declined. It will take some time for the re-establishment of these organisms. Parasitic wasps have not established in sufficient numbers to provide adequate assistance.

☛ Should aphid populations require additional insecticide treatments, it is recommended that other chemistries be researched for

supplemental aphid treatments alone, or in combination for bollworm control. Although Intruder ® worked well this year, additional chemistries exist which will give excellent control at approximately the same price (Centric ®, Lorsban ®, etc.).

☛ IPM Program fields in Owens and Pleasant Hill east to Ralls have continued to yield 1,000 to 3,000 worms/acre this week, at varying ages, in bloom tags and terminal squares. Very little square or boll damage has been noted with these infestations, but, I am concerned that “nickel and dime” populations will be the norm this year. Less than 10% of program fields have been recommended for treatment as of this writing, but, Friday and Saturday of this week will be key in population establishment, if, in fact, rainfall occurs as forecasted.

During the course of the day, bollworm moths are disturbed as Program fields are inspected, and moth populations continue to remain at static levels in pheromone traps.

☛ Meetings of Interest:

- Precision Ag Expo; September 6, 2007 - Ollie Liner Center, Plainview. (Flyer attached)
- The 55th Annual Chemicals Conference , organized by West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute, will take place Wednesday September 12, 2007. The conference will take place at the Reese Technology Conference Center located at 9801 Reese Boulevard North (West 4th Street) Lubbock, Texas.

A conference agenda and registration form can be downloaded from <http://www.plainscotton.org/wtaci07program.pdf> in PDF format. Unfortunately, registration is not available on-line at this time. You will need to print, complete and mail in the registration form along with your check payable to "WTACI".

Registration is \$70.00 if pre-registration is post marked by September 1.

After September 1, and Day-Of-Conference registration is \$90.00

The conference has been approved for 8 TDA CEUs, 8 CCA CEUs, and CEUs for New Mexico and Oklahoma are pending approval.

A map to the Reese Technology Conference Center can be found online at:

<http://reesetechnologycenter.com/rtc/content/view/21/49/>

- The Crosby County Crop Tour is scheduled for September 21, 2007. The meeting will commence at 8:30 a.m. at the Dee Abell Farm in Cone (2 Result Demonstrations) and will conclude at the Marty Davis, Dub Self Farm (east of Crosbyton). More details as the date draws near.

West Nile Virus Update:

As of August 15, 2007, three cases of West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease and one case of West Nile fever were reported by the Department of State Health Services. The counties of residence for the WNND cases are Collin, Denton, and Palo Pinto; the fever case was in a Tarrant County resident. Dates of onset for all new cases ranged from July 16 through Aug 7. Ages ranged from 35 to 79. This brings the total number of 2007 WNND cases to 7 and fever cases to 4. To compare 2007 with past years, at this time in 2006, DSHS had reported 30 cases of WNND and 8 cases of WN fever; in 2005, there were 10 cases of WNND, and no WN fever cases reported.

Just a reminder that WNV is active statewide, including our region where we've had two horses confirmed (Bailey and Randall Counties) and mosquitoes found positive in Lubbock. Please continue to advocate the practice of the 4-Ds and vaccination for horses, including the Western Equine Encephalitis, and if the horse is a traveler to the east, EEE.

James L. Alexander, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM, Texas Department of State Health Services.

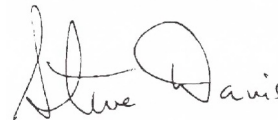
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☛ **Pumpkin producers** may have heard rumors of the Downy Mildew fungus making its way to our area, but luckily, it was only a rumor. I understand that cucumber growers in Hale County have experienced this pest this year, which can be devastating. **Dr. Ron French**, Area Plant Pathologist, Bushland, toured some Floyd County pumpkin fields last Tuesday and gave a clean bill of health regarding "Downy". He was quite impressed with the fields toured regarding maturity and the sanitary nature by which these fields have been maintained to prevent potential fungal pathogen problems. An extreme level of expense and hard work is required by area growers to maintain the "Pumpkin Capital" moniker.

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.



For the latest in entomology, agronomy and plant pathology news, review **Focus on High Plains Agriculture** at

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/>

☛ Kyle Kight and I would like to extend deepest gratitude to Steve and Rhea Lyn Newton, Gin Directors, and staff of the Owens COOP Gin for a very successful Turn Row meeting held this last week. Dr. Randy Boman was extremely pleased with the turnout and the interest shown by attendees. Rhea Lyn's burritos were a big hit.