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Partners with Nature

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PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

News about Integrated Pest Management for producers in Dawson and Lynn Counties

INSECT SITUATION

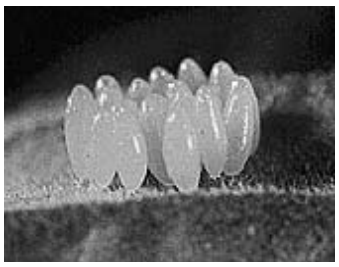
Aphids

Aphids have now moved out onto the underside of the leaf surface and a majority of the fields are now at or well beyond the established threshold of 50 aphids/leaf average. Most fields are being treated for aphids when an application is warranted. If you check your field right behind a treatment, after the re-entry interval has expired, do not be discouraged when you turn a leaf over and find 100's of aphids still on that leaf. If you got a good kill most of the aphids are dead but have not fallen from the leaf; their piercing mouthparts are still stuck in the leaf surface; check for movement by gently disturbing them.

If you scout your field for aphids based on the number of "shiny" honeydew covered plants then you will always be behind when making an application.

These aphids, although small, act as a nutrient sink to the plant, causing the plant to redirect valuable nutrients away from plant and fruit development. If left unchecked, aphids can stunt plant growth, deform and discolor leaves and fruit.

Most aphid populations are moderated by natural controls that include environmental stresses (high winds, heavy rains, extreme temperatures, etc.) and natural enemies (lady beetles, green lacewings, syrphid fly larvae, damsel bugs, braconid and chalcid wasps and parasitic fungi).



Our "number one" predator for aphids is the lady beetle. Both the adult and immature are very mobile and aphids are an "easy snack" for them. I believe you know what the adult and immature stages look like but what about the eggs? The eggs are brightly colored, typically yellow-orange, and laid in groups on the plant. There are several species of lady beetles but the convergent lady beetle is by far the most prominent in our cotton.

We are seeing quiet a bit of lady beetle activity, however this year the aphids seem to be getting a much faster start when compared to the lady beetles. We are seeing fields with an average of about 20 - 30 aphids per leaf and are not detecting any immature lady beetles and very few adults. It is once we achieve the blow away numbers that we see large numbers of immature lady beetles finally appearing. Lady beetles will eventually catch up with the aphid population and get it in check but in the meantime the plants are really being stressed and will take time to recover and time is not on our side historically speaking.

Also we need to keep in mind that the use of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides targeting other pests may increase cotton aphid numbers.

Bollworms

Bollworms continue to be very, very quiet across our area. However, I did find an egg, small worm and two medium-worms in a field between Flower Grove and Ackerly; all the activity was in one check location and not spread across the field; maybe the activity of a single moth. Some positive news is that as we walk across the fields we are not seeing any moth activity of any kind.

I would not be at all surprised to find that moth activity will increase this coming week followed by egg counts and worm activity. To stay on-top of the worm activity in a field, the field should be scouted twice a week. Our program will be unable to accomplish this so each producer will need to cast his shadow across the plants and do some checking as well. We will attempt to check some of our early worm-fields to get a feel for how the worms are behaving.

In fields with heavy aphid activity, scouting for worms becomes more difficult due to the stickiness and the relatively close size of aphids and worm eggs.

Suggested Insecticides for control of aphids in cotton

Insecticide	Rate per acre
Intruder® 70WP	0.6-1.1 oz
Lorsban® 4E	8-32 oz
Bidrin® 8E	4-8 oz
Bidrin® 8E + Ovasyn® 1.5E	4-8 oz + 0.67-1.33 pt
Bidrin® 8E + Curacron® 8E	4-8 oz + 2-4 oz
Provado® 1.6F	3.75 oz
Trimax® 4F	1.5 oz
Lannate® 2.4 LV	12 oz
Parathion 8E	4-6 oz
Curacron® 8E	8 oz
Centric® 40 WG	2 oz

Suggested Insecticides for control of bollworms in cotton

Insecticide	Rate per acre
Capture® 2 E *	2.6 - 6.4 oz
Baythroid ® 2 E *	1.6 - 2.6 oz
Leverage ® 2.7 SE *	3.75 oz
Karate ® 2.08 CS *	1.6 - 2.56 oz
Ammo ® 2.5 E *	2 - 5 oz
Decis ® 1.5 E *	1.62 - 2.56 oz
Asana XL ® 0.66 E *	5.8 - 9.6 oz
Proaxis ® 0.5 E	3.20 - 5.12 oz
Prolex ® 1.25 E	1.28 - 2.05 oz
Steward ® 1.25 SC	9.2 - 11.3 oz
Lannate ® 2.4 LV	1.5 pts
Methyl Parathion (4E)	2.5 - 4 pts
Curacron ® 8 E	8 - 16 oz
Tracer ® 4 SC	2.14 - 2.9 oz
Larvin® 3.2 F	1.5 - 2.25 pts
Mustang ® 1.5 E	2.82 - 3.83 oz
Mustang ® Max 0.8 E	2.64 - 3.6 oz

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