

July 9, 2009 Volume XVIII, No. 3

# PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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

## SCOUTING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

We now have a total of 11 fields that are being scouted this week, including the three (3) AG-CARES farms (pivot, drip and dryland). We have four irrigated fields in northwest Lynn County, two irrigated fields in northwest Dawson County and two dryland fields in southeast Dawson County. I hope to have several more by the end of the week.

## CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

The table shows the average plant structure for both the irrigated (6) and dryland (1) fields, excluding the AG-CARES farm data. Cotton ranges from cotyledon to 1/3-grown square stage. We should start seeing first flower in the next 10 days to two weeks - in some fields.

With the abundant rains, cotton has “come a long way in a short time.” Now, as temperatures increase to 100+ degrees those plants will start to slow down and wilt in the afternoons. With that said, cottons demand for water will increase and we need to be very careful when using mepiquat chloride (MC) under these conditions. Read related section below.

Plant	Irrigated	Dryland
First Fruiting Node	7.3	9
Total Nodes	12	9.4
Total Fruiting Nodes	5.7	1.4
Fruit / Plant	5.5	1.4
Plant Height	8.2	5.5
Height to Node Ratio	0.7	0.6
% Square set	97	100

## INSECT SITUATION

### Thrips

Thrips are not the threat they were earlier, however, continue to monitor the young cotton (less than 6 true leaves).

### Fleahoppers

Fleahoppers are a concern from first square thru the first week of bloom. The good news, we are not detecting any in the cotton.

Continued

## GOOD STUFF

### Mepiquat Chloride (MC)

Adapted and paraphrased from the FOCUS on Agriculture Newsletter and Dr. Randy Boman.

Mepiquat chloride (MC) reduces production of gibberellic acid in plant cells that in turn reduces cell expansion, ultimately resulting in shorter internode length. MC **will not** help the plants compensate for earlier weather or disease damage by increasing growth rate.

Under good growing conditions MC may increase fruit retention, control growth and promote earliness. Low rate multiple applications beginning at match-head square have generally provided more growth control than later higher rate applications made at first bloom or later. Watch high growth potential varieties and fruit retention. If a high growth potential variety has been planted and has encountered low fruit retention, then MC rate should be increased, especially under high water, fertility, and good growth conditions. One should target applications to fields with high growth

potential.

MC **should not** be applied if crop is under any stresses including moisture; weather; severe spider mite, insect, or nematode damage; disease stress; herbicide injury; or fertility stress. It is best to get a handle on excessive growth potential early if conditions favor excessive growth for an extended period of time. Herein lies the High Plains dilemma: It is unknown at that time as to how weather will affect the crop for the remainder of July and on into early August. Will we get 100+ degree temperatures, southwest winds at 30 mph at 10% relative humidity? If so, those conditions will limit plant growth in all dryland fields and many fields with low irrigation capacity.

Some MC products use a different molecular structure, some contain an additional PGR and others have different concentrations than the “traditional” MC products. Refer to the product labels or contact local representatives to ensure you understand the correct use of these products.



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