
July 23, 2009 Volume XVIII, No. 5

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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

CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

I think you would have me tell you that it was raining and keeping us out of the fields rather than be able to give you the average plant development stage - so that is what I am going to do . It's raining and keeping us out of the fields and so I cannot give you the average plant development stage of cotton for the week.

Our schedule has been rearranged due to the rains, we will due what we can to get everything settled in and rescheduled.

We do have fields blooming now and they are coming into bloom around NAWF of seven. NAWF is nodes above upper most first position white flower or nodes-above-white-flower. The larger the NAWF the better yield potential for that field. NAWF is used to indicate when a field is approaching or at cut-out, NAWF = 5. Cut-out is the point when the plant is no longer adding nodes but is filling the fruit it is holding.

INSECT SITUATION

Bollworms

Tuesday of this week we detected our first activity of bollworm. We saw all life stages, moth, egg and worm, but not all in the same field. This was down in the Flower Grove - Ackerly - Sparenberg area, which contain our most southern fields. Four of the seven fields checked in that area had some activity. Remember, they're reporting bollworm finds in the St. Lawrence and San Angelo areas at economic levels.

When scouting, divide a field into four quarters and check five consecutive plants from two locations in each quadrant for a total of 40 plants per field. Be sure where you are scouting is an area which is representative of the field. Regardless of where I am finding bollworm eggs or the crop and environmental conditions, I always do whole plant counts. That way I am confident in what I am finding. Our typical threshold is about 5,000 treatable worms (less than ½ inch) per acre and going up to a threshold between

8,000 to 10,000 treatable worms per acre depending on the field condition. Once worms have grown to larger than ½-inch long, natural and insecticidal control are less effective.

When the eggs and worms are in the terminal area, it benefits us in two ways. First, examination of the upper third of the plant may be all that is needed to make a sound management decision. Second, they are most vulnerable to control by insecticides and beneficial insects and spiders.

To calculate your counts into a per acre count all you need to know is three things: the number of plants per acre, the number of plants you checked (around 40) and the number of worms you found.

To calculate plants per acre, count the number of plants in:

17 row feet - for 30 inch rows

13 row feet - for 40 inch rows

14.5 row feet - for 36 inch rows
9.5 row feet - for 54 inch rows,
from several representative locations in the field,
average and multiply by 1000.
To calculate to a per acre unit, divide your plant
population by the number of plants you checked and

multiply by the number of worms or eggs or beneficials
or blooms or whatever you found on those plants.

GRAIN SORGHUM

I have been observing a field of grain sorghum, you
know to get a better understanding from first hand
knowledge, and we have whorl worms again this year.
Fall armyworms is the species I am detecting. When
worms are down in the whorl they are well protected
and we can not effectively treat them.

I am finding little worms (< 1/4 inch in size). As the
grain heads push up and spread out, there is a lot of
natural mortality so we need to wait until the worms
are at least 1/2-inch in size before we make a treatment
decision. In grain, we can control the large worms due
to the exposer of their feeding location, unlike cotton
where their feeding location is well protected.

As the head is starting its push, I was finding over one
large size (> 1/2-inch) worm per head - so these whorl
worms are riding the grain head up. What I observed
this week, actually four days later, is that all the large
worms I was ready to treat are no longer there, they
have fallen to the ground and are now pupating in the
soil.

The economic threshold for head worms is based on
the number of heads per acre and the cost of
application or about 0.5 larvae per head as a general
rule.

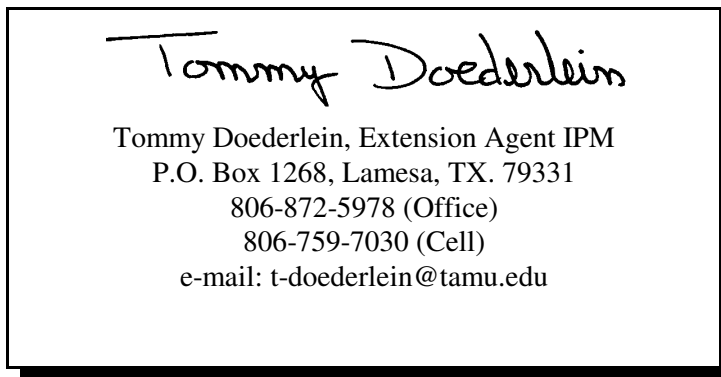
UPCOMING EVENTS

August 12 - Dawson County Farm Tour

The Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
(TCEQ) has announced the dates and locations for the
annual collections of agricultural waste pesticide and

other selected materials. The dates for these events
are:

Monday, October 12 Lubbock County
Wednesday, October 14 Gaines County
Friday, October 16 Scurry County



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