

# Plains Pest Management Newsletter\_

*News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties*

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## COTTON

Hail damage reported from around the area on Monday evening was extensive northwest of Edmonson. Some cotton fields appear to be a 100% loss while others may have a 20-60% reduction in yield. Several of these fields will need a hot September to be able to compensate.

Rainfall in my gage at Plainview totaled 3.9" from last Sunday to 6:30 a.m. this morning. East of Plainview higher rainfall amounts have been reported.

Cotton fleahoppers have become generally distributed with nearly all fields having some level of infestation. Counts have typically ranged from 2 to 10 per 45 row feet sampled. Lygus bugs have ranged from 1 to 6 per 45 row feet sampled with beat sheets. Percent square sets have ranged from 57 to 98% and generally average around 87%. Some of our current square losses may be attributed to the prolonged cloudy weather over the past several weeks. We have observed significant square shed in past years when we had 3 to 5 days of cloud cover.

Lygus bug counts have generally ranged from 1 to 6 per 45 row feet. With the continued rainfall, weedy areas have remained healthy and Lygus migration into cotton has been delayed.

## CORN

Corn growth ranges from green silk to blister stage. First generation southwestern corn borer moth emergence started today, July 13. One field sampled yesterday, (July 12) between Plainview and Edmonson had the following distribution:

July 12, 2007 - Sampled 2 to 3:45 p.m.  
SWCB Collection

Emerged	Pupae	Pre-Pupae	5 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
0	15	6	10	4
	42.8%	17.1 %	28.6%	11.4%

N = 35

Many of the SWCB pupae observed were light in color, which indicates they had recently pupated. Based on this distribution I would not expect 50% emergence until around July 26.

With the recent rains and high humidity, Banks grass mite populations have not progressed as rapidly as they could have under hot dry conditions. Percent damage leaf area has ranged from 0 to 20% in the lower 1/3 of the canopy.

When % total leaf damage has been calculated all fields we have inspected remain below economic threshold. If it turns off hot and dry, mite populations can increase rapidly and growers should be ready to initiate control when needed.

**Economic injury level for Banks grass mites based on percentage of infested leaves per plant/percent of leaf area damaged.**

Cost of Control (\$) per acre	Market Value (\$) per acre			
	500	600	650	700
15	18/9	15/8	14/7	13/7
20	24/13	20/10	18/10	17/9
25	29/16	25/13	23/12	21/11

Many corn fields had hail damage last Monday evening from Halfway to north of Edmonson. The heaviest damage observed was about 3 miles northwest of Edmonson. Some corn had up to 60% foliage loss. Fields in the green silk stage will have the greatest yield loss. It will depend on how many tassels are intact to shed pollen.

A few fall armyworm egg masses have been reported in area corn. This pest can be very damaging to the ear. We do not currently have a treatment threshold established for this pest in Texas.

Hail damaged corn can become very attractive for oviposition true armyworm. Any fields with hail damage should be watched closely for this pest over the next two weeks.

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*We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all person with disabilities for any of our meetings. We request that you contact Texas Cooperative Extension (806)291-5270, as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.*

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