

## **Plains Pest Management Newsletter**

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

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### **COTTON**

Many fields have now entered the bloom stage and most fields are in the process of having an irrigation applied.

Cotton fleahoppers and Lygus bugs are still common in most area fields, with population counts similar to last week. Lygus counts have been around 0.5 per 3 row feet, with some square losses attributed to this pest. Percent square sets have rebounded in many fields with averages in the 90% range.

Cotton aphids have increased in a number of field this past week. Beneficials have been on the increase but have not reached levels to maintain or control aphid populations. As populations reach or exceed an average of 50 per leaf then treatment may be considered. Where Carbine® has been used for Lygus bug control, aphids have been suppressed. Products such as Intruder®, Provado®, Trimax®, Centric® and Carbine® are soft on beneficials and when applied will leave these to attack other pest such as bollworm and beet armyworm.

Cotton bollworm larvae have been observed in a number of area cotton fields. So far counts and damage have been minimal. Trap collections of cotton bollworms were averaging 52 moths per day as of July 26, compared to 75 moths per day last week. Beet army worms have

also been found in both Hale and Swisher Counties. Trap collections for this pest have been low, averaging 4 moths per day on July 26.

A few tobacco budworms have been collected in traps at his time, but based on ratios to bollworms they would be less than 1% of the bollworm complex.

### **CORN**

Southwestern corn borer emergence continued this week with trap collections ranging from 4 to 23 moths per night as of July 26. The average collection in non-Bt fields was 13.4 moths per night. These collection are very low compared to other years. Some private consultants have reported seeing a few red-line eggs in corn, but counts have been low. Second generation larvae have not yet been found.

Banks grass mites have continued to increase, but the cooler than normal temperature and high humidity have dampened widespread outbreaks. Six spotted thrips and spider mite destroyer lady beetles have continued to be found in several fields, although counts are not as high as we would like to see for mite management.

Fall armyworm infestations have been reported in corn this past week. We do not have an established threshold for this pest in corn. Control in corn can be very difficult with

insecticides. Treatments should be targeted at small larvae. Control of this pest using pyrethroids alone have often not met standards desired. Combinations of a pyrethroid with Lorsban® or Lannate® have given more desirable levels of control. Coverage is also critical for this pest; so 4 to 5 gallons of water by aerial application are recommended

## SORGHUM

Yellow sugarcane aphids continue to be reported in many area fields. Sorghum hybrids are variable in their reaction to this pest. Some hybrids can tolerate relatively large colonies before the leaf yellows and dies, while other hybrids may have leaf death with 2 to 5 aphids per leaf. Also drought stress can increase the susceptibility of the plant to damage by this pest. The following table may be used for control recommendations.

**Table 9. Suggested insecticides for yellow sugarcane aphid.**

Insecticide	Application rate	Days from last application to:	
		Harvest	Graze
<b>Commercially treated seed</b>			
Clothianidin (Poncho® 600)	5.1-6.4 fl oz/100 lbs seed	—	—
Imidacloprid (Gaucho® 480)	8 oz/cwt	—	45
Thiamethoxam (Cruiser® 5FS)	5.1 oz/cwt	—	—
<b>Applied post-emergence</b>			
Carbofuran (Furadan® 4F)	8-16 oz/acre	See remarks 75	75
Dimethoate (4E)	8-16 oz/acre	See remarks 28	28
(5E)	6.4-12.8 oz/acre	28	28

**Remarks**

**Carbofuran.** Applicator must use proper protective equipment when applying this highly toxic insecticide. Do not apply to foliage more than twice per season. Do not apply after heads emerge from the boot.

**Dimethoate.** Do not apply more than three times per season. Do not apply after heads emerge from the boot.

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Sorghum midge are out early this year. Seed company representatives and private crop consultants have observed this pest in area fields this week. New economic thresholds have been developed for this pest based on number of flowering heads per acre. As an example, if one has 67,500 blooming heads per acre and the cost of control is \$6/acre and value of sorghum is \$6/cwt, then 0.5 midge per head would justify treatment.

**Table 14. Estimated economic injury levels for sorghum midge for a range of factors. (This table is only a guide. Use the equation in the text to estimate the economic injury level in your field.)**

Control cost, \$/acre	Crop value, \$100 lbs	Economic injury level— mean number of midges/flowering head		
		Flowering heads = 18,000/acre	Flowering heads = 45,000/acre	Flowering heads = 67,500/acre
5	6	1.6	0.6	0.4
5	7	1.3	0.5	0.34
5	8	1.2	0.5	0.3
6	6	1.9	0.8	0.5
6	7	1.6	0.7	0.4
6	8	1.4	0.6	0.35
7	6	2.2	0.85	0.6
7	7	1.9	0.75	0.5
7	8	1.6	0.65	0.45

Midge are very susceptible to insecticides and the lower rates have often been very effective when populations are at threshold. When populations are extremely high and extended residuals may be needed the higher rates may be used.

**Table 15. Suggested insecticides for controlling sorghum midge.**

Insecticide	Application rate	Days from last application to:	
		Harvest	Graze
Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban® 4E)	8 oz	30	30
Cyfluthrin (Baythroid® 2E)	1.0-1.3 oz	See remarks	14
Cyhalothrin (Karate® 1E) (Warrior® 1E)	1.92-2.56 oz	See remarks	
Esfenvalerate (Asana® XL)	2.9-5.8 fl oz	21	—
Malathion (Fyanon® ULV)	8-12 oz	7	7
Methomyl (Lannate®) (2.4LV) (90WSP)	12-24 oz 4-8 oz	14 14	14 14
Zeta-cypermethrin (Mustang Max®)	1.28-4.0 fl oz	14	45

**Remarks**

**Cyfluthrin.** If one or two applications are made, green forage may be fed or grazed on the day of treatment. If three applications are made, allow at least 14 days between last application and grazing.

**Cyhalothrin.** Do not graze livestock in treated area or harvest for fodder, silage or hay.



