

Plains Pest Management Newsletter

News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

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COTTON

Cotton ranges from 2 nodes above white bloom to 7 nodes above white bloom. Many fields have reached full “cut out” with 3 to 4 nodes above white bloom average.

Cotton aphids continue to plague many fields in northern Hale and southern Swisher counties. Populations in southern Hale have stabilized at levels below threshold or have crashed . Beneficials in most fields remain at moderate to high levels. **Lady beetles, syrphid flies** and **lacewing larvae** continue to feed on aphid colonies. Lacewing larvae are also very helpful for cotton bollworm management.

Cotton bollworm egg lays have been on the increase in cotton, with counts ranging from 0 to 9,500 per acre. Larval counts have ranged from 0 to 8,000 per acre. In many cases there have been enough beneficials to keep infestations at or below threshold levels. **Damsel bugs, minute pirate bugs, lacewing** and **spiders** have been the most common bollworm predators observed. Trap collections of cotton bollworms were at 64 moths per night in the Cotton Center area and at 61 per night in the Edmonson area. One trap in the Edmonson area collected 87 moths per night which was a 3 fold increase over the previous weeks collections at that sight. Overall we had a 1.6 X increase this week over last weeks collections.

Beet armyworm infestation remain at very low levels. Trap collections are very low generally averaging 2 to 3 moths per night.



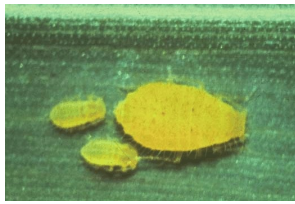
Two-spotted spider mites have been observed in many area fields. They have been present for about 3 weeks, but have not exploded due to predation by beneficials. Once we shift to pyrethroids for control of bollworms we will need to keep a watch on this pest for potential outbreaks.

Traps for **tobacco budworms** were set out on July 19. One trap finally caught its first moth this Thursday. So far tobacco budworm collections are so low that they will represent only a tiny portion of the bollworm complex and will not be a concern when making control decisions.

Lygus bugs are present in most area cotton, but damage to bolls has been light. Continue to monitor boll damage in late planted fields.

SORGHUM

Yellow sugarcane aphids continue to be observed in sorghum that has not previously been treated. Treatment threshold for this pest



were discussed last week, but where yellowing of leaves has extended into the top 3 leaves, we have used a lower treatment threshold than discussed last week. This has been if an average of one leaf kill is occurring on 20 % of the leaves in the upper portion of the plant (top 3 leaves). Again we will have to wait on research to determine the true treatment threshold for yellow sugarcane aphid. The parasitic wasp which is attacking our greenbug infestations will not be any help on the yellow sugarcane aphid. Lady beetles, syrphid flies and lacewing larvae will feed on the yellow sugarcane aphid.

Greenbugs have been on the increase in many fields. Percent parasitized aphids has also been on the increase, but most fields have not reached the 20% parasitized level at which time a pesticide application will usually not be needed.

Corn earworms (headworms) have been on the increase. The best sampling method is to use the beat bucket method. A 5 gallon white pail works very well for sampling or a 12 to 16 quart plastic trash can. Beat 5 heads into the bucket as you are walking down the row and then stop and sort through the trash to count the larvae. Sample 3 to 6 sites in a field and 20 heads at each site. This will be a total sample of 60 to 120 heads and should give a fair representation of the infestation level.

Banks grass mites have been found in all sorghum fields inspected. Fields treated with dimethoate for yellow sugarcane aphids, have also provided control of Banks grass mites. Higher levels of control have been observed in the upper ½ of the plant. If mites are also a target when making a pesticide application, the 5 gallons of water by air will be needed. Coverage is critical for mite control.

Sorghum midge populations have been on the increase with most blooming fields now having some level of infestation, although many fields have remained below threshold. Counts have been

as high as 6/head along field margins and 2/head into the field interior. This is a pest that growers must scout for themselves on a daily basis during the bloom period. Field scouts, consultants and aerial applicators cannot look at each field daily. Populations of midge can vary greatly from one day to the next. If a field is scouted once a week the counts may be 2 midge/20 heads on the day it is scouted and 40 midge per 20 heads two days later. This is the reason a grower must assist consultants in scouting for this pest.

CORN

Corn is rapidly progressing toward maturity. A number of fields have reached the 100% dent stage with the moisture line 50% down in the kernel. This means grain harvest is not far off for those early planted fields.

Southwestern corn borer trap collections have finally started to decline this week, with traps averaging 20 moths per night. Emilio Nino, Extension Agent IPM, reported finding many white and red-line eggs on Monday in late planted fields south of the Earth/Olton area. With the cooler than normal summer, moth flights have been extended.

Banks grass mites infestations have declined in many fields. *Neozygites* fungus has been a key factor for mite population declines in corn.

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