

## Plains Pest Management Newsletter

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

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### COTTON

Since the last newsletter we have observed a slight decline in overall bollworm infestations but a few fields were found with counts exceeding 35,000 larvae per acre. The majority of fields checked this past week have ranged from 2,000 to 5,000 larvae per acre. Some of our fields with large bolls to the top or have reached “cut out” have had counts from 0 to 3,000 larvae per acre. Fields planted in late May to early June still have fruit that is susceptible to bollworm damage and should be scouted for another week or two. This week big eyed bugs and assassin bugs were on the increase, in addition to predators previously reported, as pirate bugs, spiders, nabids and lady beetles.



Cotton aphid populations remain at very low levels and in most cases, pyrethroid applications for bollworms, have not created outbreaks.

Two-spotted spider mites are on the increase in some fields and on the decline in others. So far foliage damage has remained light to moderate.

Lygus nymphs continue to be found in most fields that have not been treated for cotton bollworms. Counts have typically averaged 1

Lygus per 3 foot of row. Evaluate small bolls for punctures and damage to seed. Late cotton can still be damaged by this pest.

Stink bugs have been observed in some area cotton fields this past week. Their damage to bolls is similar to that caused by Lygus bugs, which can result in stained lint and damaged seed.

### SORGHUM

Sorghum midge have been on the increase in blooming fields, with counts ranging from 0.5 to 6 midge per head. A few individual heads have had as high as 20 midge. The higher populations have been observed where blooming sorghum has been adjacent to sorghum that bloomed about two weeks earlier. Continue to scout sorghum daily during the bloom period. After an initial application, a second application may be needed 3 to 5 days later if midge are still present in the field. Short residual products such as Malathion® or dimethoate may need to be applied on 3 day intervals when pressure is high. Pyrethroids and Lorsban® are typically applied on 5 day intervals under heavy pressure from sorghum midge.



Corn earworm and fall armyworm continue to be found in sorghum over the area. Counts have remained below 0.5 larvae per head

in most fields. With 0.3 larvae per head in a field with a plant populations of 45,000, the economic threshold can be exceeded if all larvae are greater than ½ inch in length and grain is valued at 6.00 per cwt and cost of control is \$8 per acre. See our treatment tables in our new sorghum guide B-1220 at

<http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=27>

Greenbugs and yellow sugarcane aphids have collapsed in most area fields due to predators and parasites.

Banks grass mites remain in area sorghum fields and growers should add a miticide to applications for sorghum midge or corn earworm, if mites are present in significant numbers.

## CORN

Corn harvest is close for early planted corn. As grain moisture reaches 20%, harvest will move into full swing. Growers should take hand shelled samples to their local elevator to track the progression toward an acceptable moisture.

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[www.tpma.org](http://www.tpma.org) (TPMA website)

<http://hale-tx.tamu.edu> (Hale County website)

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu> (Lubbock website)

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*The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperation*

*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.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*September 6, 2007*

**Precision AG Expo** will be held at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview. Todd Staples, Commissioner of Agriculture will attend and make introductory remarks at 8:00 a.m.. A complete agenda can be found at <http://tpa.tamu.edu/pae/2007/> .  
Registration for this Expo is \$55/person

*SEPTEMBER 12, 2007*

**55<sup>th</sup> Annual Agricultural Chemicals Conference** will be held at the Reese Technology Center (9801 Reese Blvd. North).  
Registration cost is \$90 at the door. Pre-registration \$70 by Sept. 1.

