

Plains Pest Management Newsletter

News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

Greg Cronholm ★ Extension Agent - IPM ★ 225 Broadway St. 6 Plainview Texas ★ (806) 291-5274

Vol. 34, No.5

July 6, 2006

COTTON

Early planted cotton has now reached the bloom stage, although many of our fields will not reach bloom until next week. Recent scattered showers, cooler temperatures and cloudy days have helped to relieve stress on cotton and other crops.

Cotton fleahoppers and **Lygus bug** infestations remain light. Percent square sets have been above 90% in most fields inspected.

Beneficial insects remain abundant in cotton, with small spiders, big eyed bugs and ladybeetle most commonly observed.

Cotton bollworm trap collection are averaging 15.4 per day on July 5 in the Hale Center/Cotton Center area and 11 per day on July 3 in the Edmonson area. These numbers are somewhat higher than previous years for this time period, but are considered in the normal range.

Beet armyworm trap collections remain relatively high for this time of year with an average of 19.6 per day collected in the Hale Center/Cotton Center area on July 5 and 21.8 per day in the Edmonson area on July 3. So far, no major infestations of beet armyworms have been reported in cotton, although with these high daily trap collections we should be vigilant.

The first **pink bollworm moth** was collected in the Cotton Center area on July 5. No moths have been collected in the Edmonson/Kress area as of July 3.

Corn

Many fields are now in the green silk stage. Early planted corn is now in the blister stage. **Corn earworm** infestations are common on silks and in the ear tips. Bt corn hybrids will provide suppression of this pest and damage.



Corn Earworm

Banks grass mite infestations generally remain light but could become a problem with high temperatures and lack of rainfall. Most corn growers have been able to keep up with irrigation needs, but need additional rainfall as we enter the grain fill period.

Southwestern corn borer infestations remain very light for 1st generation and **European corn borer** eggs or larvae have not been found to date.

Sorghum

Fields observed are in mid to late whorl. **Fall armyworm** and **corn earworm** infestations remain light. **Corn leaf aphids** are now present in a number of fields and can be a food source for predators. **Greenbugs** have not been reported yet in the fields where observations have been made.

Greg Cronholm
Extension Agent - IPM
225 Broadway Suite 6
Plainview, Texas 79072
806/291-5274
g-cronholm@tamu.edu

www.tpma.org (TPMA website)

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

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