

# HUB OF THE PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

*A newsletter about integrated pest management for growers in Lubbock County*

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

\* CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

\* WHAT THE SCOUTS ARE FINDING

### CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

About a 1/3 of the program fields are in the second week of bloom, 1/3 are sitting at first bloom and the remaining 1/3 is somewhere between first square and first bloom. In looking at the fields that have started to bloom, the yield potential looks promising. Most of the program fields started bloom with 8 to 9 nodes above the first position white bloom meaning that these plants have quite a bit of "horse power" under them. For those of you who are trying to schedule your irrigations for the remainder of the growing season you should look at the number of nodes above your first position white flower. If you are row watering and your field is ranging from five nodes above white flower to eight nodes, then I would start my irrigation in the portion of the field that has seven or more nodes above white flower and work my way to the portion of the field that has eight. The plants that have five nodes above white flower have already reached cutout and you stand an excellent chance of not being able to recoup your irrigation cost with the yield potential of this cotton without substantial help from mother nature or the price of cotton goes up....dramatically. Blooming cotton is using an average of 0.3 to 0.4 inches per day or 2.1 to 2.8 inches per week. Most of you are practicing deficit irrigation meaning that you are putting on less than two inches per week. So for those of you who have pivots, and you turn them off to irrigate 10 acre corners that have a yield potential of 1 to

1 ½ bales and let the 120 acres under the pivot go into water stress depleting the yield potential from 2 to 2 ½ bales down to 1 ½ bales does not make a whole lot of sense to me. I have watched two pivots in the last eight days go from excellent condition to poor. For those of you with subsurface drip irrigation, and you are applying 0.1 to 0.15 inches per day and your cotton is blooming, then you really can't afford to turn off your system or divert water to other portions of the farm to irrigate low yielding potential cotton. Bottom line, count the number of nodes above your first position white bloom and if you are close to cutout with five nodes, then divert your energy to cotton that has seven or more. The best input you can provide your cotton at this time is water.

### WHAT THE SCOUTS ARE FINDING

I know this sounds like a broken record, but we are finding little if anything in program fields. **Bollworms** or bollworm damage can be found in most fields, but in very low numbers. Populations are ranging from zero to 5,000 per acre, but the larvae for the most part are not making to ½ inch in size. We are starting to pick up some surviving larvae in lush fields but the numbers are still far below threshold. In looking ahead, I think that we are in for chronic infestations of this pest. I really do not think we will experience any massive migrations coming from the south and with all the Bt corn up north, I do not look for heavy migrations coming from the corn. **Lygus** nymphs are being found in very low numbers in a few program fields. Basically, we are finding one per three fields. **Cotton Aphids**

are being found in several program fields feeding on bracts but the beneficial insects will keep these infestations in check.

Suggested Insecticides for control of bollworms

Insecticide	Formulated amount per acre
Capture® 2 E *	2.6 - 6.4 oz
Baythroid ® 2 E *	1.6 - 3.2 oz
Leverage ® 2.7 SE *	3.75 oz
Karate ® 2.08 CS *	1.6 - 2.56 oz
Ammo ® 2.5 E *	2 - 5 oz
Decis ® 1.5 E *	1.62 - 2.56 oz
Asana XL ® 0.66 E *	5.8 - 9.6 oz
Steward ® 1.25 SC	9.2 - 11.3
Lannate ® 2.4 LV	1.5 pts
Methyl Parathion (4E)	2.5 - 4 pts
Curacron ® 8 E	8 - 16 oz
Tracer ® 4 SC	2.14 - 2.9 oz
Larvin® 3.2 F	1.5 - 2.25 pts
Scout® X-tra 0.9 E *	2.56 - 3.37 oz
Fury ® 1.5 E *	2.82 - 3.83 oz

\* The synthetic pyrethroid insecticides recommended for control of bollworms also will control boll weevil.



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