



T-Y IPM News

Terry - Yoakum Pest Management Association

Volume 9, Issue 2



Current Situation:

Cotton in the IPM Program scouting fields is making acceptable progress. Development ranges from just emerged to two (2) true leaves with most fields averaging about 1.5 true leaves per plant. Stand counts are highly variable, a result of the dry planting conditions, even under center pivot irrigation, growers have had a difficult time getting cotton up. We are finding adult thrips in most fields and seeing some damage, even where at plant insecticides have been used. Wind burn and sand blasting of leaves is common. Irrigated cotton planting should wrap up in the next day or two, dryland planting may be delayed or prevented due to a lack of moisture.

In peanuts we have had a slow emergence, but most fields are now at acceptable stands. We are seeing wireworms in most peanut fields which are following a grain crop, grass crop or even sunflowers in 2007. Peanuts have also seen a lot of wind burn and sand damage where soils blew. Thrips are easily found on peanuts, however in past research there is no economic advantage to treating thrips on the Texas South plains as we have almost no tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) and very few of our thrips are the tobacco thrips which vector TSWV.

Grain Sorghum is growing well. We have some early planted fields which are in need of weed control, but otherwise look very good.

All area crops are suffering from the current heat and windy conditions. The only thing producers can do is sand fight or till and keep the water going.



Thrips damaged cotton leaves. Note cupping upward of first true leaf and silvering on cotyledons.

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Terry-Yoakum IPM Program Scouting Fees

The Terry-Yoakum Integrated Pest Management Program Steering Committee recently set its fees for the 2008 growing season. We can still accommodate a few cotton acres in the scouting program.

Peanuts - **\$9.00 per acre**

Cotton - irrigated **\$8.00**, dryland **\$5.00 per acre**

Sorghum - irrigated **\$6.00**, dryland **\$5.00 per acre.**

Having an additional set of eyes in the field frees the grower from that time constraint and provides you an objective second opinion regarding the crop's condition and pest status. Consider enrolling your acres now, contact Rae Cox or Scott Russell at 806.637.4060.

Thrips in Cotton:

Thrips are slender, straw colored insects about 1/15 inch long, with piercing and sucking mouthparts. Adults are winged and capable of drifting long distances in the wind. Thrips attack leaves, leaf buds and very small squares and may cause a silvering of the lower leaf surface, deformed or blackened leaves, terminal loss and square loss. Under some conditions, heavy infestations may reduce stands, stunt plants and delay fruiting and maturity. Thrips damage often is further compounded by plant damage resulting from rain, wind, blowing sand and diseases. Under favorable growing conditions, cotton can sometimes recover completely from early thrips damage. In many areas thrips are considered minor cotton pests. Thrips problems are more prevalent in areas with large winter wheat acreages and where producers plant prior to late May or early June. Our predominate species of thrips is the Western flower thrips.

Dr. Jim Leser, Retired Extension Cotton Entomologist, reported the following in his publication *Crop Production Guide Series: Thrips Control Critical for Irrigated Cotton* (available on the Lubbock Extension and Research Center web site at: http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/Off_Season/April_12_2004/april12_2004.pdf) "...over 20 years of testing have proven that thrips usually take a pretty big bite out of your potential yield. In fact, for irrigated fields, proper thrips control gave an average yield increase of 21%. I firmly believe that thrips are High Plains producers' most important annual pest in irrigated cotton!"

Dr. David Kerns, Extension Cotton Entomologist, stated the following in the May 30, 2008 issue of *Focus on South Plains Agriculture*: "In cotton that was treated preventively for thrips, when you begin detecting immature thrips in sizable numbers (about 30% of the population) this indicates that the preventive insecticide is playing out and that colonization is occurring. If at this point you exceed threshold, the use of a foliar insecticide is warranted. As a guideline, Temik will typically provide 28-30 days control, and the seed treatments 21-24 days of control. Efficacious and commonly used foliar insecticides for thrips management include Orthene or Acephate, Bidrin and Dimethoate. Be prepared to make foliar applications even where you have used a preventative treatment. However, as mentioned last week, research conducted in 2007 under fairly cool conditions indicated that as few as one thrips per two plants during the first week following emergence may result in as much as a 15% reduction in yield."

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