

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Jones

Mitchell

Nolan

Scurry

Ed Bynum
Extension Agent - IPM
100 E. Third St., Suite 305
Sweetwater, TX 79556



Office: (325) 236-9011
Mobile: (325) 660-1772
e-mail: ebynum@ag.tamu.edu
Website: <http://lrpipm.tamu.edu>

Vol. 9, No. 6

**THE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER
FOR THE LOWER ROLLING PLAINS**

July 14, 2006

General Conditions

Hot, dry conditions continue to prevail across the area with no appreciable rainfall throughout July. Daily high temperatures are back to the upper 90°s or above 100° F. Recently, temperatures are not cooling much during the night (upper 60°s to mid 70° F). These conditions are generating a lot of heat units (Table 1).

Early planted cotton, both irrigated and dryland, is blooming. Where water is limited in these fields the fruit load is basically set and plant growth is beginning to slow down. The remaining cotton fields generally have pinhead to 1/3 grown squares and square set is from 72 to 95%. Overall, our cotton is holding up well considering the weather conditions.

Pest Situation

Fleahoppers

Cotton fleahoppers are generally present in all fields with numbers ranging from 5 to 63 per 100 terminals. The higher numbers have warranted insecticide applications, but overall few fields have needed to be treated. Last week most of the fleahoppers were adults, whereas this week's densities consist of both adults and nymphs.

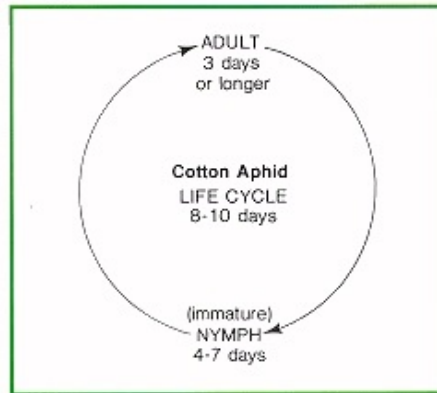
Cotton Aphids

Scouts are finding just a few aphids (0 to 10 per leaf) with occasional 'hot spots' (60 - 100 per leaf) while sampling fields. Lady beetle adults are present in good numbers (2.5 to 33 per 100 plants) and there is a good assortment of lacewing larvae, big-eyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, and spiders. These natural enemies are keeping aphid populations down. Fields with skippy stands and in drought stress are inclined to have rapid aphid build up.

These fields should be scouted every 3 to 4 days, because aphid reproduction can be fast. All aphids in a population are females and each female will generally give birth to 3 live immature female aphids daily. These immature aphids become adults in 5 to 7 days and begin birthing young aphids. One female can produce 80 immature aphids during her life. When populations, on average, exceed 50 aphids per leaf (adults and nymphs) for prolonged periods, the plant may shed squares and small bolls and may not develop fiber within the bolls.



Cotton aphid on underside of leaf showing dark green and pale yellow coloration



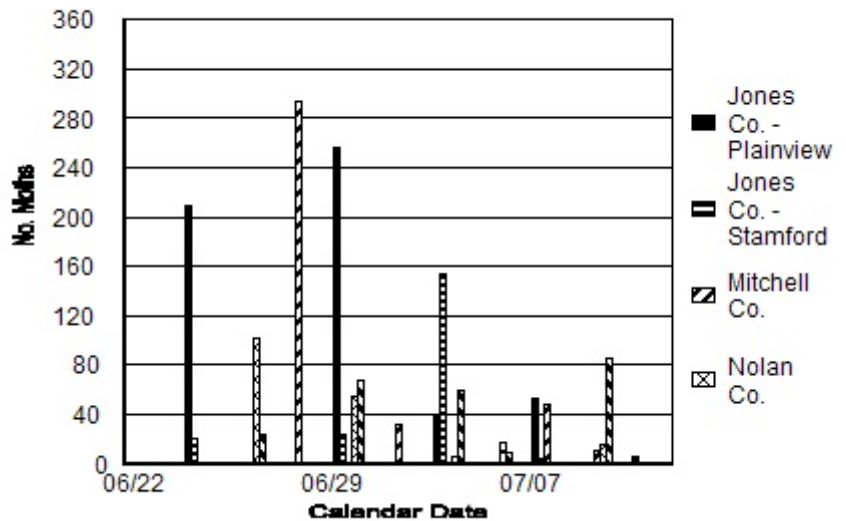
Cotton Bollworms

Moth captures have declined and continue to be relatively low in our traps this week (see graph). Egg-lay (0 to 7.5 per 100 plants) this week has been lower than the previous week. A few larvae hatched and can be found this week, but not in heavy numbers. I stopped to look at a field of grain sorghum earlier this week, and it was not uncommon to find 1 to 2 small bollworm larvae feeding in the whorl. This just indicates these small larvae will be emerging as moths in 3 to 4 weeks.



Adult bollworm

Cotton Bollworm Moth Traps



Bollworm egg and small larva

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|-------------------|
| Heat Units |
|-------------------|

Table 1. Heat Units Accumulated from Selected Dates Through July 11, 2006.

| From | Total Heat Units (DD60) |
|------|----------------------------|
| 5/01 | 1362 |
| 5/10 | 1260 |
| 5/20 | 1151 |
| 6/1 | 892 |
| 6/10 | 699 |
| 6/20 | 448 |
| 6/30 | 262 |

Turn-Row/Gin Meetings

| Mitchell Co. | Nolan Co. | Scurry Co. | Jones Co. |
|--|---|---|---|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
| July 17 8:30 a.m. Gerry Ritchey's field - FM 1899 and CR 141 | July 18 8:30 a.m. UAP - Roscoe | July 19 8:30 a.m. Farmers COOP Gin - Snyder Hwy 180 | July 20 8:30 a.m. Farmers COOP Gin - Anson |
| July 24 8:30 a.m. Hal Morren's field - NW corner of Hwy 644 and FM 2319 | July 25 8:30 a.m. Roscoe COOP Gin Office | July 26 8:30 a.m. Inadale Gin | July 27 8:30 a.m. Farmers COOP Gin - Stamford |

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for all extension programs. We request you contact Ed Bynum (325/236-9011) as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service you require.

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