

Lower Rolling Plains Pest Management News

Jones Mitchell Nolan Scurry

Texas Cooperative Extension

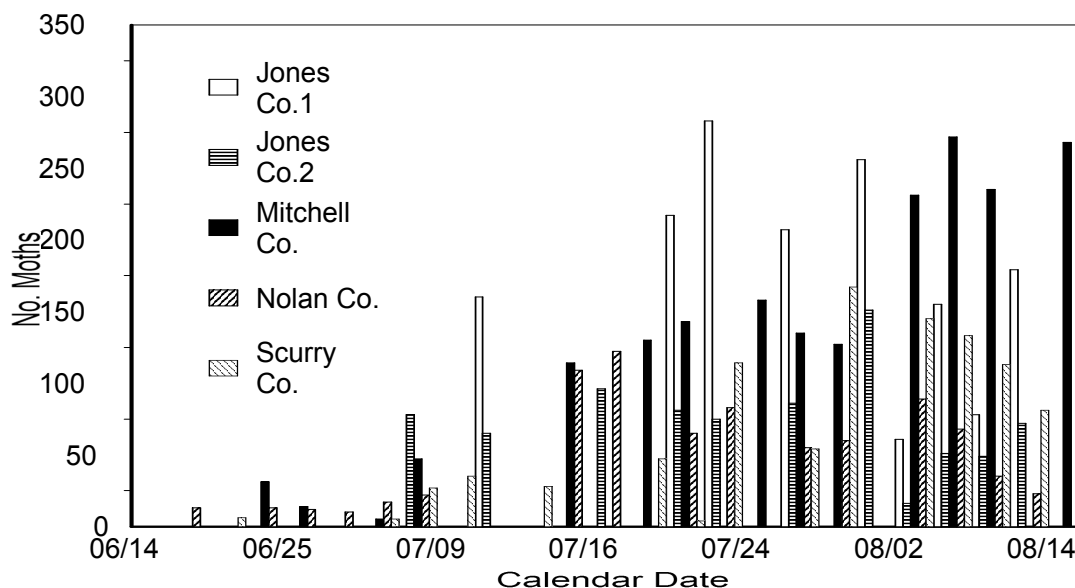
Current Crop and Pest Situation

Cotton can be found in all developmental stages. Some fields are just beginning to bloom, others are at peak bloom, and some fields have blooms at the top of the plant. It is amazing how quickly fields have bloomed within the last week to 10 days. As Kerry Siders, Extension Agent—IPM for Hockley and Cochran Counties, reported in his newsletter on August 9, fields which have reached cutout (< 5 nodes above white flower) only needs approximately 400 more heat units (HU) to be safe from worms. From August 6 to August 13, a total of 153 heat units were accumulated (average 22 HU per day). If the High pressure stays over the area, we could be in for period of hot, dry weather. Maybe the Low pressure that is in the Gulf of Mexico will push into the area and bring some rain.

Cotton aphids and lepidopteran pests (bollworms and fall armyworms) continue to be a concern. We are beginning to see signs of aphid numbers decreasing in some fields. Parasite mummies and aphids with a fungal disease are more prevalent in fields where aphids have been numerous for 10 to 14 days. Inspect plants for aphids and do not treat based on abundance of honey dew on the leaves. If aphids are crashing, the honey dew will still cover the leaves but aphids may be difficult to find.

Bollworm moth captures continue to be relatively high in Jones and Mitchell counties, declined in Scurry county, and were somewhat lower in Nolan county (see figure). Moths are still active enough that fields should be monitored for larvae and feeding damage. Moths are laying more eggs deeper into the cotton canopy, due to the hot, dry conditions. We continue to find both bollworm and fall armyworm larvae in fields. Worm numbers in non-bt cotton has ranged from <1,000 per acre up to 8,360 per acre

Cotton Bollworm Moth Traps



in our IPM program fields. Also, natural predators remain abundant across the area. Lady beetles are most numerous were cotton aphids are present. Spiders have always been numerous and big-eyed bugs, damsel bugs, and minute pirate bugs are commonly found. The biggest increase in predator numbers have been with lacewing larvae. I did see spider mites starting to colonize in a field, but nothing to be alarmed about right now.

Grain sorghum in the flowering growth stage should be scouted for sorghum midge. Refer to last weeks newsletter (volume 10, no. 14) for tables listing economic injury levels and insecticide products for midge control. Also, sorghum heads in the milk and soft dough growth stages should be scouted for head worms and stinkbugs. Information on economic thresholds and insecticide control products was reported in the July 4, volume 10, no. 9, newsletter. These newsletters can be found on-line at <http://lrpimp.tamu.edu> and then click on the link to Local Pest Management Newsletters.

CEU Credits

Texas Cooperative Extension in Nolan County will offer pesticide application training to obtain continuing education credits on Thursday, August 23, at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room, 317-A, 3rd floor of the Nolan County Courthouse. This training will meet the requirements for any individual who needs a Private or Non-Commercial Applicators License. Please RSVP by August 21st by contacting Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent-Ag at (325) 236-6912 or (325) 236-9011. All programs and information of Texas Cooperative Extension are available to everyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact Mr. Zachary Wilcox (325/236-6912) as soon as possible to advise of any auxiliary aid or services you may require.

Grower Meetings

Monday –Aug. 20	Tuesday—Aug. 21	Wednesday—Aug. 22	Thursday—Aug. 23
Scurry County Inadale Coop Gin— Hwy 84 8:30 a.m.	Nolan County UAP office—Roscoe 8:30 a.m.	Mitchell County Russell Erwin’s field—2 miles S. of Westbrook on FM 670 8:30 a.m.	Jones County Farmers Coop Gin— Anson 8:30 a.m.

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