

# Pest Management News

News About integrated pest management for  
producers in Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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## GENERAL SITUATION

Hot, dry conditions continue across the Concho Valley. Generally, these conditions have kept insect pests well below threshold levels.

Scattered thunderstorms July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> dropped up to 4-inches of rainfall in some areas. These areas were generally very small and most areas remain dry. Many cotton fields have not come to a stand and, in many cases, the seed has germinated but did not have adequate moisture to come to a stand. I have been told that these fields can begin being evaluated by crop adjusters after July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Irrigated cotton is doing well and much of it is approaching bloom. Treatable levels of fleahoppers have been rare this year. Missing squares or dried up blacken (blasted) squares do not always mean a fleahopper damaged it. Remember, to assess fleahopper damage potential, both percent square set and numbers of fleahoppers must be determined.

The first bollworm egg-lay started last Wednesday and Thursday. Scouts are finding eggs in many fields but very few if any larvae. Egg numbers ranged from 0-43 eggs per 100 plants this week. Most of these early infestations are being taken out by heat and natural enemies. Our plant canopy is still relatively small and heat plays a major role in mortality until cotton gets some size to it and starts shading the "middles". We should get passed this 1<sup>st</sup> egg-lay with few problems.

### Fleahoppers

Cotton fleahopper numbers ranged from 3 to 46 fleahoppers per 100 plant terminals this week. Percent square sets ranged from a low of 67% to as high as 98%. Most irrigated cotton fields are averaging 88 to 95% square retention and fleahopper number are generally low. Square retention in dryland fields is generally lower but still quite adequate for the amount of soil moisture that is available at this time.

### Cotton Aphids

Small "hot spots" of aphids continue to be reported by the scouts mostly in dryland fields. Natural enemy numbers are high in these fields and keeping aphid numbers down in most cases. Fields which came up to a thin skippy stand and are in a drought stress situation right now are most susceptible to rapid aphid build up. Monitor these fields

closely and regularly. With square retention in most dryland fields well above 75%, I think it would be a mistake getting too aggressive with controlling aphids or fleahoppers right now unless aphids exceeded 50 aphids per leaf.

**TURNROW MEETINGS & DAILY INSECT REPORT**

The next regularly scheduled meetings will be on Tuesday, July 18 at Wall Coop beginning at 9:00 a.m. and on Wednesday, July 19 at Ballinger Coop beginning at 8:30 a.m. See you there.

The Daily Insect Report is up and running. The number is the same as in the past 326-365-2642.

The Conservation Tillage Conference was a huge success and we had 150 attend. The speakers were quite interesting with many questions being asked. We want to thank our sponsors for break and lunch. Financial sponsors of the program were: Ballinger Coop, Porter Henderson Implement Company, RHS/Bestway Sprayers, Citizens State Bank of Miles, Runnels County Farm Bureau, First National Bank of Ballinger and Ballinger National Bank.

**Rowena**

Heat Accumulations	2005	2006	2005	2006	Rainfall	
Planting Date	June 29	June 29	July 9	July 06	March	1.56
May 01	922.9	1089.4	1175.5	1221.9	April	0.75
May 15	807.8	919.3	1060.4	1051.8	May	1.42
June 01	566.7	620.1	819.3	752.6	June	0.67
June 10	394.7	461.5	647.3	564.0	July	1.41
June 15	306.5	303.1	559.1	435.6		

**Wall**

Heat Accumulations	2005	2006	2005	2006	Rainfall	
Planting Date	June 29	June 29	July 9	July 06	March	1.38
May 01	945.4	1172.1	1201.2	1303.3	April	1.45
May 15	829.5	962.4	0085.3	1093.6	May	1.21
June 01	579.1	637.7	834.9	768.9	June	0.21
June 10	410.6	443.0	666.4	574.2	July	0.29
June 15	319.2	312.8	575.0	444.0		

**Pink Bollworm Traps**

	Runnels 06/27/06	Runnels 07/04/06	Tom Green 06/27/06	Tom Green 07/04/06
Trap 1	5	8	15	4
Trap 2	0	0	42	20
Trap 3	14	10	14	22
Trap 4	2	2	47	8

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