

Pest Management News

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

Richard Minzenmayer
Extension Agent-IPM
613 Hutchins Ave., Room 302
Ballinger, Tx 76821
Phone (325) 365-5212 Fax (365) 365-5212
TPMA Website: <http://www.tpma.org>
Runnels County Website: <http://runnels-tx.tamu.edu>

September 15, 2006
Vol. XIX No.14
E-mail: r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu
Website: <http://ipm.tamu.edu>
Mobile (325) 365-1292

GENERAL SITUATION

IT'S amazing how attitudes improve with a good rain. The rain and cooler weather is a welcome site. Cotton harvest is just around the corner and harvest-aid plots were established this week to determine what chemicals or chemical mixes will work best for this crop. As you know, what worked well last year may not be as effective this year.

With the rain, comes the weeds. Have you ever seen so many weeds germinate all at once? Where did they all come from? It must be the neighbors field.... JUST JOKING! These weeds should be easily killed because they are small and actively growing. Soil moisture will be lost quickly on fallow ground if weeds are not destroyed in a timely manner.

COTTON TOURS

It's cotton-tour time and we have two scheduled. They will be Sept. 21 and 22 in Runnels and Tom Green counties, respectively.

The Runnels County Cotton Field Tour starts at 9 a.m. at the Runnels County Courthouse in Ballinger. Participants will then travel to the **Paul Minzenmayer Farm (County Road 348 and State U.S. Highway 83) for a tour to include a dryland cotton variety test and harvest-aid demonstration.** The Runnels County Tour will conclude with a talk on cotton root rot research, updates on Texas Department of Agriculture laws and regulations, and a complementary meal at Old St. Mary's Hall in Ballinger. Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be provided for those who attend the entire tour (1 Laws and Regulations, and 1 General).

The Tom Green County Cotton Field Tour begins at 9 a.m. at the **John and Doug Wilde farm just north of the intersection of Loop 306 and Farm-to-Market 765, east of San Angelo.** The Wilde farm tour includes an irrigated cotton variety test, a plant growth regulator trial, and a harvest-aid trial. **Participants will then travel to the Chris Bubenik Farm at Hawk Avenue and Penny Lane to view another cotton variety test.** The tour will conclude with a presentation on cotton root rot research, updates on Texas Department of Agriculture laws and regulations and a complimentary meal at St. Ambrose Parish Hall. Texas Department of Agriculture will offer 2.5 continuing education units (1.5 General and 1 Laws and Regulations) for those attending the entire tour.

For more information and to RSVP for either of the tours, call the Extension office in Runnels County at 325-365-2219, the Extension office in Tom Green County at 325-659-6523 or call Rick Minzenmayer at 325-365-5212 by Sept. 19.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK our sponsors for supporting our cotton tours:

**Western Ag Chemical
Ballinger National Bank
DuPont Crop Protection
Miles Coop Gin
Matlock & Associates, Inc.
Mereta Coop Gin
Porter Henderson Imp. Co.
Dow AgroScience**

**UAP Dist., Inc.
Wall Coop Gins
Sherry Wegner Agency
BASF
Delta & Pine Land Co.
Wingate Gin Corp.
First Ag Credit
SRPCGA**

**Haechten Insurance Agency
Ballinger Coop Gin Co.
First State Bank of Paint Rock
First National Bank of Ballinger
Norton Gin Co.
Central Texas Farm Credit, ACA
Bayer CropScience
Syngenta**

GRAIN SORGHUM

Most of the sorghum is harvested and yields were generally well below average. Looking on the good side; prices were good. Producers are encouraged to destroy sorghum plants as soon as possible. Sorghum plants will continue to pull precious nutrients, and soil moisture out of the field after harvest if not killed. It also allows cotton root rot to survive. Although cotton root rot does not kill sorghum plants, the fungus does feed upon the fibrous root system. So your benefits of crop rotation is reduced to practically zero if you leave the sorghum alive for an extended period of time after harvest.

SMALL GRAINS

Some producers have wheat up and going this week. I would encourage producers planting early to scout fields frequently for fall armyworm activity. Fall armyworms can take a stand out rather quickly. Small grain fields will be susceptible to fall armyworms until frost.

The decision to treat wheat seed should be based on seed cost, cost associated with treating, field crop history, seed quality, planting date, and the anticipated disease and insect pressure during the season. Most of us look at seed treatments as “insurance”. Seedling disease tends to be more severe if poor quality seed is used and if conditions at planting are not favorable for quick germination and stand establishment. Seed treatments can improve stand establishment under poor growing conditions. If seed came from a field with common bunt or loose smut, a fungicide seed treatment should be strongly considered.

If the field has a history of hessian fly problems, a seed treatment using Cruiser® 5FS or Gaucho® XT should be considered if early planting dates are to be used.

COTTON

Many dryland and a few irrigated cotton fields are ready for harvest-aid applications. Be sure to remember Gramoxone® Max has been phased out and replaced with a more user friendly formulation called Gramoxone® Inteon. It is the same active ingredient but the old material was a 3 lb. product and the new material is a 2 lb. product. So, rates will be a little different. I have provided you with a conversion table below.

Extension programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. This information is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension is implied. Mention of a trademark or a proprietary product does not constitute an endorsement of the product by Texas Cooperative Extension and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Conversion Table for Gramoxone Max and Gramoxone Inteon
for Equivalent Paraquat Active Ingredient Rates

Gramoxone Inteon (2 lb/gal)		Gramoxone Max (3 lb/gal)	
Product oz/acre	Acres/gallon	Product oz/acre	Acres/gallon
4	32	2.6	48
8	16	5.3	24
12	10.7	8	16
16	8	10.7	12
24	5.3	16	8
32	4	21.3	6
48	2.7	32	4

After the rainfall events a week ago, some cotton fields have developed some re-growth. Gramoxone will not work very well on re-growth (immature leaves). Leaves need to be approximately 20-22 days old and they turn a darker green color before Gramoxone will work effectively.

If re-growth is an issue, Aim® @ .75-1.0 oz. or ET® @ 1.5-2.0 oz., or Resource @ 6-8 oz. should be added to the paraquat to assist in good desiccation of the cotton field. These products will also do a good job of burning down any morningglories which may be in the field as well. On higher yielding fields (above 400 lbs/acre), Ginstar @ 4-5 oz. plus Prep® would be a good mix to use as a defoliant. CottonQuik has been replaced with a less corrosive formulation called FirstPick®. Active ingredients are the same just a better formulation.

We have harvest-aid trials out and they will be viewed and discussed next week at the Cotton Tours. See you there.

Chemtura Corporation will be marketing a 3 lb. paraquat this season and it's trade name will be Firestorm™. So make sure to use proper rates. From tests previously conducted with paraquat, an application of the product in the late evening provided the highest level of desiccation. For defoliation purposes, the chemical needs to be applied in the middle of the day.

You are seeing a lot of press on ET™, a product marketed by Nichino America, Inc. We have evaluated this product in test plots in Tom Green county the last four years. It worked well but had no advantage to Aim®, Blizzard™ or Resource® which work basically the same way. If you are familiar with Aim®, then you have a good idea of how these other products work. I would use the one which is the most cost-effective.

Rowena

Heat Accumulations	2005	2006	2005	2006	Rainfall	
Planting Date	August 28	August 28	Sept 06	Sept 06	April	0.75
May 01	2203.4	2512.9	2367.4	2658.2	May	1.42
May 15	2088.3	2342.8	2252.3	2488.1	June	0.67
June 01	1847.2	2043.6	2011.2	2188.9	July	1.41
June 10	1675.2	1855.0	1839.2	2000.3	August	2.45
June 15	1587.0	1726.6	1751.0	1871.9	September 9	1.71

Wall

Heat Accumulations	2005	2006	2005	2006	Rainfall	
Planting Date	August 28	August 28	Sept 06	Sept 06	April	1.45
May 01	2208.4	2563.7	2367.4	2726.9	May	1.21
May 15	2092.5	2291.0	2251.5	2452.2	June	0.21
June 01	1842.1	2029.3	2001.1	2192.5	July	0.29
June 10	1673.6	1834.6	1832.6	1997.8	August	3.47
June 15	1582.2	1708.4	1741.2	1871.6	September 9	1.08