

# Pest Management News

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

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## GENERAL SITUATION

More seasonal weather has returned to the Concho Valley. That is good news for this year's cotton crop. Although, plant development is behind schedule, heat is exactly what it needs right now. Cotton fleahoppers and cotton aphids continue to increase across the area and producers are encouraged to monitor their cotton fields closely as squaring begins.

Grain sorghum continues to progress well with much of it in the milk to soft dough stage. Grain producers need to check their sorghum for headworms and/or stink bugs at this time. Many sorghum fields have required treatment this week.

## GRAIN SORGHUM

Fields that have headed and are making grain should be checked for grain-feeding bugs and headworms. The conchuela stink bugs and southern green stink bugs seem to have dispersed across grain fields. They were concentrated along field margins a couple of weeks ago. Rice stink bugs have become more numerous as well. This pest has not been present in significant numbers in previous years but infestation levels are quite high this year. Headworms averaged 1-3 per head this week in fields which were scouted. Recommended insecticides for the control of headworms and stink bugs includes: Cyfluthrin (Baythroid® 2 E) @ 2.1 oz/acre; Cyhalothrin (Karate® 1 E) @ 3.8 oz/acre and Esfenvalerate (Asana® XL) at 7.7 oz/acre.

## COTTON

Cotton is ranging from 6 true leaves to 13 nodes with ½ grown squares. Most of the cotton being monitored by the interns is at matchhead square stage. Cotton fleahopper numbers are increasing across the area and many fields are exceeding threshold levels. Cotton fleahopper numbers in program fields are ranging from 11 to 40 per 100 terminals with 59% to 88% square sets. Remember, the current economic threshold for cotton during the second

week of squaring (matchhead) is 25-30 fleahoppers per 100 terminals in combination with a less than 85% square set. Suggested insecticides for the control of fleahoppers include: Intruder 70 WP @ 0.6-1.1 oz/acre; Trimax 4 F @ 1.5 oz/acre; Centric 40 WG @ 1.25-2.5 oz/acre and others. Lower rates do not seem to be doing quite as well as previous years. You may want to consider increasing insecticide rates a little.

Almost every cotton field has a small population of cotton aphids present. With more normal seasonal weather coming back, aphid numbers should remain low. Our heaviest infestations usually occur during mid-late August. Any of the above mentioned insecticides for fleahopper control will also control aphids.

Bollworm egg counts ranged from 3 to 60 eggs per 100 plants. Bollworm moth trap catches jumped way up this week averaging over 200 moths per trap per day in Tom Green County. We have not seen these numbers in several years. Bollworms should not be a big problem right now due to a small plant canopy, hot temperatures and high beneficial numbers. Once cotton begins to bloom and a larger plant canopy exists, mortality will be much less and we will need to pay closer attention to this pest.

With the rainy cool weather experienced the past several weeks, heat unit accumulations have been slow. Comparing 2006 HU to 2007 data, we are a little behind schedule. See Table 1 and 2.

**Table 1. Heat Units Accumulated from Selected Dates Through July 9, 2007.**

From	Total Heat Units (DD60)
May 15	907
June 1	712
June 10	542
June 15	439

**Table 2/ Heat Units Accumulated from Selected Dates Through July 9, 2006.**

From	Total Heat units (DD60)
May 15	1115
June 1	816
June 10	627
June 15	497

Based on normal cotton development, the estimated days before cotton begins squaring and flowering after planting is about 32 days and 55 days, respectively. See Table 3.

So cotton planted on May 20<sup>th</sup> should begin flowering around July 14 under normal growing conditions. This cotton is about a week behind schedule based on current growth stage. (See Table 4.) This is not a big problem for May planted cotton but it does make it more challenging for cotton planted mid-to-late June. A little more aggressive approach to early season insect management may be important since we are behind and there may be little time to compensate for early square loss if we do not have an open fall with good late season heat units. Insect pressure could be much higher late season as well.

**Table 3. Estimated Time Sequence of Cotton Development from Cotton Emergence.**

Planting Date	Range	Average
1 <sup>st</sup> Square }	27 to 38 days	32 days
1 <sup>st</sup> White Bloom }	47 to 63 days	55 days
1 <sup>st</sup> Open Boll }	92 to 118 days	110 days
30% Open }	107 to 133 days	125 days
60% Open }	117 to 143 days	135 days
85% Open }	137 to 163 days	155 days

**Table 4. Projected Dates of Crop Growth Landmarks For Various Planting Dates Based on Table 2.**

Planting Date*	1 <sup>st</sup> Square	1 <sup>st</sup> White Bloom	1 <sup>st</sup> Open Boll
5/20	6/21	7/14	9/07
6/01	7/03	7/26	9/19
6/10	7/12	8/04	9/28
6/20	7/22	8/14	10/08
*(Keep in mind that these dates are estimates, warmer and cooler temperatures will hasten or delay crop maturity, respectively.)			

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Turnrow meetings are set for next week. Wall Coop meeting will be on Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. and Ballinger Coop will be on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.

### Tom Green Bollworm Moth Traps

Date	Trap-1 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped	Trap-2 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped	Trap-3 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
7/05	121	40.3	31	10.3	75	25.0
7/09	283	70.8	116	29	294	73.5
7/11	452	226	592	246	423	211.5

### Runnels Bollworm Moth Traps

Date	Trap-1 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped	Trap-2 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
7/05	216	72.0	285	31.7
7/09	153	38.3	27	6.8
7/11	202	101	33	16.5

### Tom Green Budworm Moth Traps

Date	Trap-1 Wilde Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
7/05	11	3.7
7/09	24	6.0
7/11	7	3.5

### Rowena

Heat Accumulations	2006	2007	2006	2007	Rainfall	
Planting Date	June 29	June 29	July 09	July 09	February	0.48
May 01	1089.4	869.9	1284.9	1053.4	March	5.98
May 15	919.3	723.5	1114.8	907.0	April	2.95
June 01	620.1	528.7	815.6	712.2	May	7.36
June 10	431.5	358.3	627.0	541.8	June	6.74
June 15	303.1	255.7	498.6	439.2	July 09	0.04

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Wall

Heat Accumulations	2006	2007	2006	2007	Rainfall	
Planting Date	June 29	June 29	July 09	July 09	February	.64
May 01	1172.1	852.1	1366.2	1027.0	March	3.85
May 15	962.4	707.9	1156.5	882.8	April	.84
June 01	637.7	515.4	831.8	690.3	May	2.74
June 10	443.0	351.7	637.1	526.6	June	4.58
June 15	312.8	248.7	506.9	423.6	July 09	0.51