



# 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>

August 17, 2007  
Vol. XX No.15  
E-mail: [r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu](mailto:r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu)  
Website: <http://ipm.tamu.edu>  
Mobile (325) 365-1292  
Runnels County Website: <http://runnels-tx.tamu.edu>

## GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton has really responded to the hot sunny weather the Concho Valley has experienced over the past couple of weeks. Cotton ranges from 7 nodes above white flower (NAWF) to past physiological cutout with 2 NAWF. Most cotton fields have reached physiological cutout (<5 NAWF) and will need approximately 400 more Heat Units (HU's) to be safe from worms. Over the past two weeks we have been accumulating 22 to 24 HU's per day. Therefore, those fields which have reached cutout should be safe from worm damage around September 1-3.

Grain sorghum harvest is underway and grain yields look like they are going to be well above average. Preliminary reports indicated grain yields ranging from 2,400 lbs to over 4,300 lbs per acre in Runnels County. Quality is very good as well. I guess the Big Question is: "Where are we going to store all this grain?" Some growers have commented that stinkbug populations are very high in those sorghum fields which were not treated earlier in the growing season for headworms and/or stinkbugs. Remember, stinkbugs can cause significant damage to cotton late in the season. Stinkbugs are a lot easier to control in sorghum than in cotton. If you have cotton next to sorghum fields monitor them closely for migrating stinkbugs.

## COTTON

Cotton is progressing rapidly with the hotter temperatures and many areas of the Concho Valley could use a good 2-inch rain. Hopefully, we will get a good rain this weekend. Most cotton fields look very good and have a really good fruit set. Bollworm/fall armyworm damage is evident in many non-Bt cotton fields. Currently, we are finding significant number of bollworms and fall armyworms in Widestrike, Bollgard, and Bollgard II cotton fields but they do not seem to be causing significant damage. They are primarily being found in bloom tags and not in squares or larger bolls. About 60% of the population is fall armyworms and the remainder is bollworms. I would be very hesitant on treating these worms right now for several reasons: 1) they do not seem to be causing significant damage; 2) cotton aphid infestations could

increase rapidly after the treatment; 3) natural enemy populations are very high; 4) our plant canopy is quite large and the worms are down in the canopy; 5) the worms are in bloom tags (difficult for insecticides to be effective); 6) at best we could expect 65-70% control and 7) cost of the application would be quite expensive. Need I go on? We will continue to watch this situation very closely and keep you informed as to what is happening.

Monsanto technical representatives do not seem to be alarmed and say they have seen this in previous years in other areas of the cotton belt. Larvae can be found feeding in a small boll or bloom tag but never seem to migrate to other fruiting positions on the plant. There is a lot of factors which affect the level of the Bt toxin within the various plant parts. Environmental conditions, cotton variety and maturity of the cotton all play a role with this issue. There is very little Bt toxin expressed in the flower and pollen of the cotton plant. So theoretically if we were in peak bloom at the time of a significant egg-lay (which we were), we could be vulnerable to some worm damage because of the sheer number of flowers present at the time of the egg-lay. That's probably why we are seeing these worms now.

It's interesting to note that the tobacco budworm trap located in Tom Green County is now averaging 50 moths per day. I have not seen these numbers since the late 80's. The Bt technology is very effective in controlling tobacco budworm and it is normal to see this pest increase as the season progresses.

**Cotton Aphids.** Producers should monitor fields regularly right now for cotton aphids. The population seems to be increasing in many fields. Natural enemy numbers are very high and hopefully will keep them below threshold levels. The economic threshold for cotton aphids is when populations exceed 50 aphids per leaf and are continuing to increase. Many times infestations will reach threshold levels and then crash. So monitor fields regularly to see what the population is doing.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Turnrow meetings are set for next week. Wall Coop meeting will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. and Ballinger Coop will be on Wednesday, August 22, 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
8/10	79	39.5	203	101.5	132	66
8/13	194	64.7	275	91.7	238	79.3
8/15	163	81.5	243	121.5	151	75.5

**Runnels Bollworm Moth Traps**

Date	Trap-1 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped	Trap-2 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
8/10	42	21	1	0.5
8/13	108	36	0	0
8/15	43	21.5	1	0.5

## Tom Green Budworm Moth Traps

Date	Trap-1 Wilde Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
8/10	0	0
8/13	9	3
8/15	100	50

## Rowena

Heat Accumulations	2006	2007	2006	2007	Rainfall	
Planting Date	Aug 09	Aug 09	Aug 17	Aug 14	March	5.98
May 01	2022.6	1643.4	2235.5	1750.7	April	2.95
May 15	1852.5	1497.0	2065.4	1604.3	May	7.36
June 01	1553.3	1302.2	1766.2	1409.5	June	6.74
June 10	1364.7	1131.8	1577.6	1239.1	July	1.29
June 15	1236.3	1031.2	1449.2	1138.5	August 14	.83

## Wall

Heat Accumulations	2006	2007	2006	2007	Rainfall	
Planting Date	Aug 09	Aug 09	Aug 17	Aug 14	March	3.85
May 01	2102.6	1611.2	2303.4	1720.5	April	.84
May 15	1892.9	1467.0	2030.7	1576.3	May	2.74
June 01	1568.2	1274.5	1769.0	1383.8	June	4.58
June 10	1373.5	1110.8	1574.3	1220.1	July	2.56
June 15	1247.3	1007.8	1448.1	1117.1	August 14	0.63

The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page"

St. Augustine