

Pest Management News

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

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GENERAL SITUATION

Wheat maturation is in road gear. We could see combines running within the next two weeks.

Grain sorghum is progressing well with very few problems other than moisture stress. A good rainfall event right now would be very beneficial.

Cotton planting is well underway and so far soil moisture conditions are adequate to get the cotton up to a stand. Producers should monitor seedling cotton for thrips and thrips damage especially if Cruiser® was not used at planting. Wheat is rapidly drying down and thrips are moving out.

Volunteer cotton is coming up in sorghum and wheat fields right now and producers are encouraged to manage this potential problem. We had a lot of weevil migration last year and the potential is present to have some problems this year. Seedling cotton is easily controlled in sorghum. Once wheat harvest is completed, an herbicide application over the top of the stubble will eliminate potential host plants for the boll weevil. Don't wait until the volunteer cotton is in the reproductive stage. Control goes down significantly once cotton reaches the 7-8 true-leaf stage.

GRAIN SORGHUM

There has been a number of questions pertaining to nitrogen requirements for sorghum. As a general rule of thumb, "Sorghum requires 2 lbs. of nitrogen for each 100 lbs. of yield." Nitrogen is the

main nutrient you should be concerned with. We have adequate levels of P and K in our soils so generally no extra is required. Up until the three-leaf stage, sorghum has a low water and nutrient requirement. Once it reaches the five-leaf stage, the growing point is moving above the soil surface and the potential for plant development is determined. Water and nutrient demands go up at this point. Stress caused by weeds, insects, lack of nutrients, and drought can impact yield potential at this stage. Herbicides such as 2,4D should not be used over the top at or above this stage of growth.

COTTON

Cotton planting is well underway and some is up to a pretty stand. Be sure and monitor fields regularly for thrips and their damage. Seedling cotton is very susceptible to thrips damage. Heavy thrips migrations can occur as bordering crops and/or weeds dry down and mature. Prolonged migration can occur in fields that are next to rangeland so monitor regularly. Heavy infestations can destroy the terminal buds resulting in stunted growth. Treatment is recommended when the number of thrips averages one or more per true-leaf present. Once cotton plants reach the 6-7 true-leaf stage, insecticidal control is rarely justified.

SRP-PRIDE PROGRAM

Mary Joe Schronk and Katie Moses are on board and we are busy establishing a number of cotton trials this year. It looks like we will be quite busy this growing season. Scout School is set for June 2 & 3 and, if you need a refresher course on insect ID and/or plant growth and development on cotton, we encourage you to attend. Everyone is welcome. Please let me know as soon as possible. I need a number count for books.