

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>

July 03, 2008
Vol. XXI No.09
E-mail: r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu
Website: <http://ipm.tamu.edu>
Mobile (325) 365-1292
Runnels County Website: <http://runnels-tx.tamu.edu>

GENERAL SITUATION

Well the Concho Valley has gotten a little relief from the hot dry conditions this past week. Cooler temperatures and much needed rainfall has producers looking up again. Rainfall amounts varied greatly from 0.5 to over 3-inches in some places.

Cotton fleahopper numbers remain low and percent fruit retention is ranging 82 to 95 percent. Cotton ranges in growth from just coming up to a stand to 1st week of bloom.

GRAIN SORGHUM

There is a lot of variability in sorghum fields across the area. Sorghum which was planted early and is currently making grain look very good. Later planted sorghum which was in the 5 to 7 leaf stage during those extremely hot dry days of June did not fair very well. Growing point differentiation was occurring at the time of extreme heat and plants were drought stressed. This is the period of time where the growing point changes from vegetative to reproductive (head formation). The total number of leaves have been determined and potential head size is being determined. Ideally you do not want the plant in a stressed situation at this time.

Severe moisture stress during the boot stage can prevent the head from exerting completely from the flag-leaf sheath. This prevents complete pollination at flowering time. With improved moisture conditions now (if fertility is good) the plant may allow the peduncle to extend the head out above the flag-leaf sheath.

Remember, number of seed has already been determined but seed size and weight has not. So with better moisture conditions, the sorghum still has a chance of making grain.

Sorghum fields which are blooming or in the soft dough stage should be monitored for headworms. I have had a number of calls concerning larvae feeding in the whorls of sorghum and haygrazer. Leaves become ragged from “shot holes” where larvae feed in the whorl. Most whorl feeding does not cause significant yield loss and control efforts are rarely justified. Insecticide treatments can be justified when leaf area is reduced significantly and when the growing point or grain heads are damaged. It is very difficult to get insecticide down in the whorl if the larvae are feeding exclusively in the whorl. More than one fall armyworm per plant should be counted before applying insecticides on plants that are 18-inches or more in size (before the heading stage). Small spray particles tend to penetrate better and provide better coverage suggesting that hollow cone nozzles would be best.

Table. Suggested insecticides for controlling corn earworm (cotton bollworm) & fall armyworm on sorghum.

Insecticide	Concentrate/unit area	Days from last application to:	
		Harvest	Graze
Carbaryl (Sevin®) (4F)	32-64 oz.	21	14
(80S or 80WSP)	1.25-1.8 lb.	21	14
(4XLR+)	32-64 oz.	21	14
Cyfluthrin (Baythroid® 2E)	1.3-2.8 oz.	see remarks	see remarks 14
Cyhalothrin (Karate® 1E)	2.56-3.84 oz.	see remarks	see remarks
(Warrior® 1E)	2.56-3.84 oz.		
Esfenvalerate (Asana® XL)	5.8-9.6 fl. oz.	21	
Methomyl (Lannate®) (2.4LV)	12-24 oz.	14	14
(90WSP)	4-8 oz.	14	14
Zeta-cypermethrin (Mustang Max®)	1.75-4.0 fl. oz.	14	45

Remarks

Cyfluthrin. If one or two applications are made, green forage may be fed or grazed on the day of treatment. If three applications are made, allow at least 14 days between last application and grazing. *Cyhalothrin*. Do not graze livestock in treated area or harvest for fodder, silage or hay.

COTTON

Cotton fleahopper numbers ranged from 0 to 20 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. Fruit retention is high and many cotton fields are moving into the 3rd week of squaring with an 85% or better fruit set. That’s great. Fleahopper numbers are low, square sets are high and therefore automatic insecticide applications should be

avoided. Previous tests conducted in this area indicates **NO** yield response from automatic insecticide application.

Cotton is growing and doing well with the cooler temperatures and improved moisture conditions. Some producers are concerned about the rapid growth. Remember, many of these cotton fields are beginning to bloom and set bolls. Bolls pull a lot of carbohydrates from the plant and can serve as growth regulators themselves. We usually go into a dry period this time of year as well. So take these factors into consideration when making your PGR decisions.

Those producers that are not planning on plowing their wheat stubble and are concerned with volunteer cotton and other broadleaf weeds should consider adding Ally® XP to the Roundup application. This should provide good control of seedling broadleaves and give 60-90 days residual control. If volunteer cotton has some size to it then Aim® @ 1 oz./acre or ET® @ 2 oz./acre should be added to the mix. There should be no problems planting cotton in 2009 using Ally® XP now.

TURNROW MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Turnrow meetings will be on Tuesday, July 08 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wall Coop and on Wednesday, July 09 at 8:30 a.m. at the Ballinger Feed & Seed.

Tom Green Bollworm Moth Traps

Date	Trap-1 Wilde Home Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped	Trap-2 FM 380 Veribest Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
6/26	317	105.7	14	4.7
6/27	82	82	0	0
7/01	284	71	25	6.3

Runnels Bollworm Moth Traps

Date	Trap-1 FM 2887 Zea-Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
6/27	3	1.5
7/01	35	8.8

Runnels Budworm Traps

Date	Trap-1 FM 2887 Total moths trapped	Average daily # trapped
6/27	0	0
7/01	6	1.5

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