

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

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CURRENT SITUATION

This has certainly been a very challenging year from start to finish. Thank goodness the end is fast approaching. All cotton is cut-out and blooming out the top. The past two weeks, cotton has been shedding squares and small bolls.

Cotton aphids are beginning to increase in some fields so monitor your cotton fields regularly. Cotton aphids suck the precious nutrients from the plant that is used to mature the bolls. The plant does not need added stress.

There has been a lot of questions pertaining to irrigation termination. Research has shown significant decreases in yields when terminating irrigation too soon (less than 350 HU's past cut-out). A general rule of thumb to use is 450 heat units past cut-out (5 NAWF). With current heat unit accumulations, that translates to about 18-20 days past cut-out. Decisions need to be made on an individual field basis. Keep in mind we have no reserve moisture in our soil profile so it may be necessary to irrigate a few days longer than normal to insure we mature all the fruit possible. Once a boll is about 20 days old, it can stand moderate stress. A boll younger than 20 days old is susceptible to stress and can shed if moisture stress occurs.

**Cotton Aphids.** Typically aphid infestations increase this time of year and tend to be more prevalent in skippy stands. It's all skippy this year. Aphid infestations are usually detected by the presence of honeydew accumulation on the leaves. However, this indicator is not a reliable tool since rain and overhead irrigation can wash honeydew from the leaves and the presence of sticky plants is not a necessarily indicative of the density and overall health of the aphid population. Fields should be scouted twice per week when aphids are present since rapid increases in aphid numbers can occur in a short time. A total of 60 leaves divided between the top, middle and lower portion of the plants should be sampled from plants across the fields to determine actual infestation levels. Count the number of live aphids (do not count cast skins) and derive the average number of

live aphids per leaf. If approaching or exceeding threshold, the number of lady beetles should also be estimated.

Avoid sticky cotton once bolls open. Low infestation levels of cotton aphids can excrete sufficient honeydew to contaminate the lint of open bolls and create significant and costly problems at the textile mill.

#### **Aphid Action Threshold**

<b>Cotton Stage</b>	<b>Action Threshold</b>
Prior to first cracked boll	50 aphids per leaf
After first cracked boll	10 aphids per leaf

**Pecans.** Treatments for hickory shuckworm should be going out at this time. Treatments for HSW are based on the fact that there was a problem the year before and timing is based on the nut development stage of half-shell hardening. The IGR's (growth regulating compounds) such as Confirm® and Intrepid® work great and does not flare aphids.

Pecan weevil applications should be made at the time of late gel formation which has already past on the early maturing varieties. Typically, we recommend the first application being applied around August 20<sup>th</sup> but that may be a little late this year. Producers need to cut pecans from their earliest maturing varieties to determine stage of kernel development.

#### **UPCOMING COTTON TOURS**

The Tom Green County Cotton Field Tour will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 and begins at 9 a.m. at the John and Doug Wilde farm just north of the intersection of Loop 306 and FM 765, east of San Angelo. The Wilde farm tour includes an irrigated cotton variety test, a harvest-aid trial and a look at the cotton root rot study. The tour will conclude with presentations from Texas Department of Agriculture on laws and regulations, Boll Weevil Eradication Update and a complimentary meal at St. Ambrose Church BBQ Area. Three continuing education units (2 General and 1 Laws and Reg) will be given to those attending the entire tour. For more information on the tour, call the Extension office in Tom Green County at 325-659-6523 or call Rick Minzenmayer at 325-365-5212.

The Runnels County Cotton Field Tour date has not been set as of today. I will let you know soon.

#### **TURNROW MEETINGS**

A turnrow meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16 19 at 9:00 a.m., at the Wall Coop. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Tom Green County Bollworm/Budworm Traps

Date	Total Trapped Trap #1 John Wilde	Average Daily # trapped	Total Trapped Trap #2 Chris B. FM 388	Average Daily # trapped	Total Trapped Trap #3 FM 380	Average Daily # trapped	Total Trapped Trap #4 FM 380	Average Daily # trapped
8/01	99	33	0	0	0	0	11	3.7
8/03	75	37.5	0	0	0	0	12	6
8/05	12	6	0	0	0	0	10	5
8/08	19	6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/10	5	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0

Runnels County Bollworm/Budworm Traps

Date	Total Trapped Trap #1 FM 2887	Average Daily # trapped
8/03	4	2
8/05	1	0.5
8/08	2	0.7
8/10	0	0

**PRAY FOR RAIN!!!**

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