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PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN GLASSCOCK, REAGAN AND UPTON COUNTIES

GENERAL SITUATION

Rainfall has not fallen for a week and temperatures have warmed some. Cotton planting has picked up in those fields that are dry enough. There is a threat of rain & cooler temperatures again this weekend. Thrips and saltmarsh caterpillars (wooly worms) are the insect pest of most concern.

THRIPS

Thrips are damaging one field of early planted cotton that has been very slow growing because of cold and wet weather. As fields begin to emerge, we will see movement of thrips from wheat and pastures into cotton.

As the temperatures warm and cotton grows off more rapidly, thrips infestation will become less of a concern. You may consider some type of seed treatment, hopper box or in-furrow treatment on earlier planted irrigated cotton to protect from excessive damage.

The seed treatments available are Cruiser® or Gaucho Grande® which give control similar to in-furrow treatments at similar cost.

Planter box treatment consists of Orthene® or various generic acephates. They only last a couple of weeks and consistent treatment of all seeds is difficult.

In-furrow products such as Temik® will give several weeks control but are more expensive.

Foliar applications can also be used for thrips control but timing is difficult and residual control is limited.

SALTMARSH CATERPILLARS

It has been a good many years since we have seen this pest as a threat. With very little cotton emerged, they aren't causing problems yet, but numbers are extremely high in some area pastures, roadsides, etc. You should be watching for their possible movement into seedling cotton fields and destroying the stand.

Doug Jost with Monsanto checked with their research people to see if there was any information on Bollgard cotton saltmarsh caterpillar control. From limited information, entomologists reported approximately 30% control with Bollgard I and 95% with Bollgard II. The only problem with this might be the size of the worm as it first feeds on cotton. The larger worms may not be controlled as well if they move in from pastures so don't let your guard down.

If needed, various pyrethroids seem to be the chemicals of choice in their control. Azodrin was one of the best products in the past, but it is not on the market now.

INSECT SURVEY SCOUTS

We have hired the scouts for 2007. They are Doug Cmerck, Katie Gully, Emily Gully, Lauren Plagens, Kaycee Schniers, Brittney Chudej, Jared Bradford and Erin Hirt. They will begin work with Scout School on June 4-5. After returning, they will be contacting you and locating fields to scout. Your patience and help getting them started will be appreciated.

INSECT SCOUT SCHOOL

The classroom portion of our insect scout school will be Monday, June 4th from 8:30-12:00 at the San Angelo Research & Extension Center. If you are interested in brushing up on your scouting skills, this is an excellent opportunity.

PECAN NUT CASEBEARER

The first captures of casebearer moths occurred on May 18 in area orchards. From this information, 1st significant nut entry should occur around May 30th - June 4th which would be the optimal time to treat. Scouting of trees for egg-lay and hatch are the best way to pinpoint this activity more closely.

Enclosed is some information on pecan freeze damage, fertilization and casebearer control from John Begnaud, Extension Horticulturist from San Angelo.

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION

Eight boll weevils have been caught these past two weeks in the St. Lawrence Zone. Several were caught within a 3 mile radius of Garden City and one in the north part of Glasscock County on Highway 33. Fortunately, these weevils are probably suicidal since cotton in these areas is nowhere near fruiting yet, but more emergence may be seen later.

RAINFALL

Rainfall amounts for the months of January through May 23rd are included in the table below.

	St. Lawrence	Garden City	Midkiff
January	1.21	1.42	1.21
February	0.16	0.18	0.15
March	2.55	4.55	2.90
April	2.63	1.58	2.82
May 1-23	3.51	3.66	3.86
TOTAL	10.17	11.39	10.94

WEATHER DATA

Weather data for a 10 day period for the past two years is included in the tables that follows:

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
5/15/07	78	58	0.01	10	72
5/16/07	65	55	0.31	8	71
5/17/07	59	53	0.54	7	68
5/18/07	65	55	0.17	7	66
5/19/07	67	54	0	6	66
5/20/07	72	59	0	10	67
5/21/07	78	61	0	9	69
5/22/07	87	57	0	11	71
5/23/07	81	68	0	14	72

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
5/15/06	74	53	0	8	76
5/16/06	85	45	0	5	74
5/17/06	89	53	0	6	75
5/18/06	96	53	0	7	76
5/19/06	101	59	0	6	78
5/20/06	102	67	0	11	79
5/21/06	99	69	0	13	80
5/22/06	96	63	0	13	80
5/23/06	97	70	0	15	80

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