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PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

GENERAL SITUATION

Mild temperatures persisted in the area this week. Spotty showers over the weekend resulted in very little rainfall around the area. A spot of two got from .75-1". Cotton ranges from squaring to 2nd week of bloom.

Insect activity remains below economic thresholds in all cotton fields we are scouting at this time.

A couple of grain sorghum fields required treatment for a combination of headworms and stink bugs.

SCOUT SAFETY

If you are spraying the field the scouts are checking with an insecticide, please contact them or me so they will not be unnecessarily exposed to chemicals. Thanks for your cooperation.

FLEAHOPPERS

Fleahoppers ranged from 0-25 per 100 plants and square sets ranged from 82-100%. Most fields have sufficient square sets now, but you should watch the late planted fields for another 7-10 days.

BOLLWORMS

- Eggs ranged from 0-8000 per acre or 0-23 per 100 plants.
- Small worms ranged from 0-800 per acre or 0-2 per 100 plants.

Egg-lay has picked up slightly, but remains low at this time. Reports of high egg-lays and worm activities has been received from the Ballinger area.

COTTON APHIDS

We are only finding occasional plants infested with aphids and numbers are still very low.

STINK BUGS

Stink bugs are still scattered in low numbers. As we start getting more 10-day-old or older bolls, we should be watching closer for their activity in these fields. Everything looks so good right now, we don't want anything to sneak up on us.

KEY PREDATORS

Predators ranged from 5000-26,000 per acre with spiders being the most abundant. Others found are minute pirate bugs, damsel bugs and big eyed bugs.

SORGHUM

As mentioned, several fields were treated this week for stink bugs and headworms. Grain in the milk state is most susceptible to these pests. Pyrethroids at the higher rates gives good control.

PRIVATE APPLICATOR LICENSE

If you or anyone you know needs to be trained and tested for a TDA Private Applicators License, please call 432-354-2477. We are trying to determine if training or testing is needed in our area.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VERTICILLIUM

WILT AFTER PLANTING: by Dr. Terry Wheeler

The most important decision is which variety to plant. After planting, then there are a few options that you can use to minimize your Verticillium wilt problem. Be aware that they will most likely have minor effects on wilt, not major effects. Irrigation is probably the most significant management tool. The more water that the plants have, the more wilt is likely to develop. If wilt symptoms are already present as you approach flowering, then I would recommend not watering as heavy as normal. If you normally are trying to meet about 75% of what the plant is using, then you may back that off to 50%. I have no data to back up this recommendation, which means that it may not help. I do know that there is a relationship between wilt severity and water, but I am not sure about what affect reducing irrigation during the flowering and boll filling period will have on reducing wilt, versus reducing yield because of water stress.

The other tool would be to reduce tillage to a minimum. Every time the field is cultivated, the producer is providing more avenues for the fungus to enter the roots and cause disease. I can still find severe fields that are in minimum tillage that have Verticillium wilt, so not cultivating will not eliminate the problem. However, I would weigh heavily the cost of cultivating versus some other method of weed control. I would prefer to see herbicides (i.e. with a hooded sprayer) being used if weeds are a problem rather than cultivation.

Nitrogen fertilization and its affect on Verticillium wilt have been studied by a few folks. I have not done this research myself. I would summarize the effect of fertilizer has small, and would not at this time recommend that you hold off fertilizing to reduce wilt. Be aware, however, that severe wilt is going to result in low yields, so less fertilizer is necessary.

TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 31	9:00 am Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, Aug 1	9:00 am Midkiff Coop
Tuesday, Aug 7	9:00 am Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, Aug 8	9:00 am Midkiff Coop

HEAT UNITS

Heat units averaged 15 per day the past week. Heat units since 5-15, 5-25, 6-4 and 6-14 are compared with last year and a five year average in the table below.

DATE	5/15	5/25	6/4	6/14
2007	1095	1032	892	723
2006	1472	1304	1112	882
5 YEAR AVERAGE	1339	1194	1031	835

WEATHER DATA

Weather data for the past two weeks is included in the table that follows:

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
7/13/07	86	72	0	7	84
7/14/07	90	68	0	5	83
7/15/07	95	62	0	5	84
7/16/07	94	64	0	5	85
7/17/07	91	62	0	5	85
7/18/07	86	63	0	7	85
7/19/07	85	65	0	7	83
7/20/07	85	69	0	6	82
7/21/07	82	65	.04	4	82
7/22/07	88	64	0	5	81
7/23/07	91	61	0	4	82
7/24/07	84	67	0	5	83
7/25/07	87	60	0	5	82