

Pest Management Report

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN FRIO AND ATASCOSA COUNTIES

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General

The rain has disappeared for the past week and with a little sunshine we are finally getting some drying in the fields. Everyone in Frio and Atascosa counties received excessive amounts of rain over the past month with some areas receiving as much as 25 inches in April alone. All of our crops have suffered from water logging or heavy washing and replanting.

Peanuts

Peanut producers are now behind schedule for preparing their fields. With the planting window opening in a couple of weeks, producers may not be able to start planting as soon as they would like. Even if fields do dry out in time, I urge everyone to try and wait for the planting window of May 20-June 15 if at all possible.

Cotton

Cotton producers have faced a host of problems already this season. Everything from washed fields, replanting, sandblasting of the young leaves, to the cool cloudy days and seedling disease. The sunny warm days we had last week will help the plants grow out of the early damage. The plants will be a little behind schedule, especially if they have lost part of or an entire cotyledon leaf, replanting or planting fields which have remained wet is still an option until about May 15. After that I would be hesitant about planting cotton because of the late season rains. You might also consider planting a shorter season variety. For fields that have been

replanted, I would consider applying more fertilizer, especially nitrogen, with all of the rain we have seen, some of the nitrogen will have been leached out. You may need as much as 30% of what was originally put out.

Weeds will also be a problem right now. Weeds need to be controlled now while they are still small (less than 6 inches). In Roundup Ready or Liberty Link Cotton, this should not be a big problem. According to Dr. Charles Stichler, if grass is a problem use post directed or over the top sprays with Fusion, Assure, and Select. Staple can be used over the top if you have broadleaf weeds, or directed sprays of Lorox or Linex.

HOWEVER THIS PRODUCT WILL FRY COTTON IF IT GETS ON THE PLANT. BUT IT WILL ALSO FRY WEEDS AND GRASSES.

As far as insects are concerned, thrips are our number one concern right now. Thrips generally feed down in the terminal of the plant and are hard to count. From emergence through the one-true-leaf stage, one thrips per plant is the threshold. After that it is one thrips per true-leaf. Control is rarely justified after the 5-7-true-leaf stage.

Other Crops

Wheat and oats look good right now. The rain has done nothing but help most fields. I have seen a few fields where high winds and heavy rains have laid part of the crop over. They should be alright, but harvest will be slower in those spots. Rust has hit the more susceptible varieties pretty hard, but the more tolerant varieties look

o.k. Corn and sorghum is coming along real well and the rain has helped. I have not heard of any insect problems at this time.

Boll Weevil Eradication

Be sure to report all cotton acreage to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. The assessment for 2004 is \$23.14 per land acre. For more information or to sign up your acres, call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Office in Uvalde at (830)278-1774.

M44 Training

An M44 Training will be held in Cotulla on Tuesday, May 25, 2003. Anyone interested in licensing should contact Sally Allen at (830)879-4453. At this time I do not know if any CEU's will be provided.

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