

Pest Management Report

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN FRIO AND ATASCOSA COUNTIES

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General

Warm weather and sunshine had finally returned to south Texas again. The cool wet weather had been great for corn, sorghum and potatoes, but has delayed cotton growth and peanut land preparation.

Peanuts

With fields finally drying out, producers are now able to get back in the field. Planting is now underway and will continue for more than a month. With the higher price of fuel and fertilizer, many producers may be looking for ways to cut costs. I would advise against cutting back on fertilizer. Without the fertility in place, reasonable yields will never be met. Also do not cut back on early season herbicides. The dinitroaniline herbicides or "Yellow" herbicides are the foundation for your weed control program.

Cotton

Cotton is coming along fine right now, but with some of the early season wind damage, later planted fields look better than the earlier ones. With the sun finally shining the plants are finally starting to grow. Fields I have looked at range anywhere from cotyledon stage to 6-true-leaf stage. Remember all Roundup sprays on Roundup Ready cotton end with the 5th true-leaf. Insects have not been a problem as of yet. But continue to check for

thrips on young cotton. Once cotton begins squaring, cotton fleahoppers and *Lygus* Spp. become our next concern. 15-25 cotton fleahoppers per 100 plants checked and a square set under 80% may require spraying. For *Lygus* Spp., 10-15 per sweep with a sweep net and less than 80% square set may require control.

Other Crops

Wheat and oats are still in good shape and now ready to harvest. Rust has been a problem in some fields all over the area. High winds have blown some fields over a bit, but otherwise the crops look good. Corn is looking outstanding right now thanks to the wet spring. Around 50% or more of the fields are tasseling. Sorghum looks equally good right now. Dryland fields could have outstanding yields. Potato harvest is well underway and so far yields are looking pretty decent.

Frio & Atascosa IPM Scouting Program

The IPM Program will once again be scouting peanuts along with cotton this year for area producers. The scouting program focuses on insect, weed, and disease pests in peanuts and cotton. Fields will be scouted weekly and reports will be provided. For more information contact Brad Easterling at (830)334-3290.

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.

2003 Result Demonstration Handbooks

2003 result demonstration handbooks are now available. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy please come by the Texas Cooperative Extension Office.

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Brad Easterling, EA-IPM