

# Pest Management Report

*NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN FRIO AND ATASCOSA COUNTIES*

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## General

The rain has finally stopped, for now, but most weather stations are predicting more for our area again this weekend. Most all producers need a little more time to finish field work and to let low lying areas in fields to dry out. Crops that are in the field right now are growing at a tremendous rate thanks to all of the rain we have had. Area reports indicate anywhere from 5-10 inches of rain has fallen over the last few weeks in Frio and Atascosa counties.

## Peanuts

Heavy rains have left peanuts in various stages of growth at this time. Some early planted fields look great and are really growing good right now. Other fields need to be replanted due to washing or water logged soils. Many producers are still trying to finish their last fields and are hoping the rain will hold off awhile longer. Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) has been showing up early and often this year. TSWV is being reported in fields as early as 14 days after cracking. Hopefully the newer, more resistant varieties will be able to hold on with this early infection. Some of the older or less resistant varieties may be in trouble if they pick up high levels of TSWV this early in the season.

Early and late leafspots are also being seen in the field early this year. It is not really a surprise since we have had so much rain and cooler temperatures this summer. The easiest way to identify early and late leafspot is to look at the leaves under a hand lens. Early leafspot

produces spores on the upper leaf surface, whereas late leafspot produces spores on the lower leaf surface. Early leafspot spores are generally colorless or white and late leafspot spores are dark brown to black. A good rotation to avoid planting peanuts back-to-back is the most effective way to reduce leafspot infection early in the season. Numerous fungicides including: Abound, Folicur, Headline, Stratego, Tilt, and Tilt Bravo are all labeled for leafspot control in peanuts. Remember to rotate chemical classes, not just fungicides in order to avoid resistance problems.

Weeds are going to be a problem in peanuts right now with the heavy rains this year. Pre-plant herbicides have been washed away or leached out and escapes are occurring. Fields need to be cultivated or sprayed quickly before weeds get too large to be controlled.

## Cotton

Cotton is growing at a very fast rate and needs to be monitored for applications of plant growth regulators. Internode length should be between 1.5 and 1.75 inches. Worms are showing up in heavier numbers at this time. All fields, especially non-Bt fields should be scouted at least once a week. Fields should be treated for bollworms when 8-12 small larvae are present per 100 terminals and beneficial numbers are high. If beneficials are low, a threshold of 4 or 5 worms per 100 terminals should be used. Cabbage loopers are also being found in cotton right now. We do not really have a threshold for cabbage loopers, but use a number of about 10% of the plants infested with small larvae. We have a complete listing of insecticides available for use on cotton here at

our office, and the list can also be found online at [www.tcebookstore.org](http://www.tcebookstore.org).

### **Other Crops**

Grain sorghum and corn are near maturity and are just about ready to harvest. I have not seen or heard of any problems with either crop at this time and with all of the rain that we have had, we should have a very good crop of both this year. Watermelons have been experiencing downy mildew all over the area and all the way down to the Valley this year.

### **Private Pesticide Applicator Training**

Texas Cooperative Extension in Frio County will host a Private Pesticide Applicator Training on July 19, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. at the Extension office at 400 S. Pecan St. in Pearsall. Texas Cooperative Extension provides training materials at a cost of \$20 for the general handbook and \$10 for the Laws and Regulations handbook. The training is free of charge. For more information and to RSVP, contact Jaime Lopez, Frio County CEA-Ag or Brad Easterling, Frio/Atascosa EA-IPM at 830-334-0099 or 830-334-3290.

### **M 44 Training**

Texas Cooperative Extension in Frio County will host a M 44 Training on July 22, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the Extension office at 400 S. Pecan St. in Pearsall. The program covers training and testing on available management techniques and monitoring to allow certification of M 44 sodium cyanide applications for coyotes, foxes, and feral dogs causing damage to livestock. For more information and to RSVP by July 20, 2004, contact Jaime Lopez, Frio County CEA-Ag at 830-334-0099.

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Brad Easterling, EA-IPM