

Pest Management Report

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN FRIO AND ATASCOSA COUNTIES

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General

Things are looking real good for most of Frio and Atascosa counties. Peanuts look good right now with very few problems that I know of. Cotton is getting close to being harvested with good yields expected for most. Corn and grain sorghum are being harvested right now and the yields look good. The rains that we have had have made this a great year for grain crops. We could use a good rain right now, but I know the producers harvesting would like to see it hold off a little while longer.

Peanuts

Peanuts are in good shape at this point with fields ranging from 30-90+ days old. The wet spring and early summer really spread out the crop this year. It looks like a few fields will be coming out extremely late this year. Hopefully the later planted fields will not get caught by rain or an early freeze at harvest. Insects have not been a problem in any of the fields that I have looked at so far. A few worms have been found from time to time, but their numbers have decreased lately. Weeds were a problem for most growers early on, but seem to be under control right now.

Diseases have been a little bit of a problem early on. Tomato spotted wilt increased quite a bit the last few weeks with some fields more than doubling. Both early and late leafspot can be found in several fields, but seems to be holding with the dryer weather and use of fungicides. A little southern blight can also be seen, but has not been a problem to this point. This is the time of

year when we generally start to see rust out in the fields. Producers should be on the lookout for the small orange pustules on the underside of the leaves. Once rust starts producing spores, they can spread rapidly and be extremely detrimental to peanuts, especially in later planted fields.

Cotton

Cotton season is starting to wind down for most growers right now with lower position bolls starting to open. You have probably noticed that the boll weevil eradication has started to spray your fields nearly every week right now. This is believed to be due to the harvest in the valley forcing weevils to migrate north. Worms and aphids are increasing in a lot of these fields due to the lack of beneficial insects. Growers must continue to monitor for these insects in order not to lose the crop you have worked so hard to get to this point. Aphids can also pose serious problem due to the honeydew that they excrete. When this honeydew drips down onto the lint of open bolls it creates "sticky cotton". This "sticky cotton" creates problems with harvest, ginning and milling of the cotton.

Suggested insecticides for aphid control:

Intruder ® 70 WP

Lorsban ® 4 E

Bidrin ® 8 E

Bidrin ® 8 E + Ovasyn 1.5 E

Bidrin ® 8 E + Curacron 8 E

Dimate ® 4 E

Dimethoate ® 2.67 E

Dimethoate ® 4 E

Dimethoate ® 5 E
Provado ® 1.6 F
Trimax ® 4 F
Lannate ® 2.4 LV
Metasystox-R ® 2 E
Curacron ® 8 E
Centric ® 40 WG

Cotton Turn-Row Meeting

There will be a Turn-Row meeting at the farm of Lawrence Tschirhart and Sons on August 17, 2004. Dr. Charles Stichler, Extension Agronomist, from Uvalde will be on hand to discuss irrigation termination, defoliation, harvest and stalk destruction. The meeting will last from 10 a.m to 12 p.m. and CEU's will be provided. Tschirhart's farm is located 18 miles east of Pearsall on FM 140. For more information please contact Brad Easterling at (830)334-3290.

Crop Tour

The 2004 Frio/Atascosa Crop Tour is tentatively set for September 2, 2004, more information will be provided in the next newsletter.

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