

# Pest Management Report

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

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September 17, 2004

Volume 3, No. 14

## General

Crop condition in South Texas is in fairly decent shape right now. Cotton continues to be harvested in both Frio and Atascosa counties and yields look good. The peanut situation is a real mixed bag right now with some fields that look great and others looking pretty rough.

## Peanuts

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) is still the biggest problem facing growers. With fields ranging anywhere from 1-2% up to 100% infection. It appears that nearly every producer has at least one field with TSWV at 60% or higher. For fields that have acquired the disease later in the season, generally 60 days after cracking. The plants will hold on to what pods they have and generally yield a little bit. Plants hit earlier than 60 days will generally not produce. Unfortunately this has been a year for high levels of TSWV, but fortunately it has been sporadic and has not devastated 100% of the crop. Southern blight and leafspot can be found in most fields, but fortunately is generally not a problem. Fungicides have been doing a great job of controlling these diseases. Peanut rust is still trying to spread, but has not been very successful. Leaves can be found with pustules on them, but are not spreading in the fields that I have looked at. We may start seeing levels of rust rise as some of the earlier fields are starting to be harvested right now. Thrips levels are rising dramatically in a few fields, which is increasing the spread of TSWV, but they are also feeding readily on leaf surfaces causing a silvering of the leaves. This may cause some

defoliation later in the season. Young grasshoppers are emerging by the thousands in several fields right now. At the moment it appears that they are feeding mostly on weeds such as morning glory and horse purslane. But they are also feeding on peanuts and will feed more as the weeds are depleted. Insecticide applications may be required if defoliation occurs, especially in late planted peanuts. Chemicals such as Asana XL, Lorsban, Orthene, or Sevin among others, will control grasshoppers.

## Cotton

Cotton harvest is well underway right now and yields are looking good to this point. Wet weather has caused some problems with harvest, timing of harvest aids, and regrowth, but it looks like that is behind us for now. Remember that stalk destruction is mandatory and the sooner after harvest that they are destroyed, the easier they are to kill. Shredding stalks to a height of 6-8 inches and then spraying stalks with 1 lb. active ingredient per acre of 2, 4-D and then generally followed by a second application of 0.5-1.0 lb. ai/ac provides excellent kill of cotton stalks and any emerged seedling. Both the amine salt and ester formulations show to be equally effective. For best results stalks should be sprayed the same day they are shredded. A spray boom can be mounted directly to the shredder to perform both operations at once. Thorough coverage of 5-10 gallons of water/ac and the use of a surfactant at 0.5% v/v is recommended.

## Crop Tour

The 2004 Frio/Atascosa counties crop tour will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2004. Registration will be at the Frio County Extension office at 8:00 a.m.

Dinner will be served and TDA and CCA CEU's will be offered. **Anyone planning to attend should RSVP by September 21, 2004.** For more information contact Brad Easterling at (830)334-3290.

## Texas Country Clean-up

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality along with the Atascosa Texas Cooperative Extension office will host a Texas Country Clean-up on **September 23, 2004** from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Atascosa county show barn and fairgrounds (on Hwy. 97 at intersection of Hwy 97 and FM 3510 in between GMC dealership and livestock auction).. Items to be accepted include....

- \*used motor oil & filters

- \*lead acid batteries

- \*properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers

They will also be accepting certain pesticide and agricultural chemicals. For more information please contact Atascosa County Agent Joe Taylor at (830)769-3066 or Brad Easterling at (830)334-3290.

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Brad Easterling, EA-IPM