

## **Pest Management Report**

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

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### **General**

Local rains have been few and far between for most of Frio and Atascosa counties. Temperatures have been absolutely unbearable the past couple of weeks with highs anywhere from 103°-111° F. Fortunately a cold front is moving into the county this weekend and highs should be in the mid 70's to low 80's.

### **Peanuts**

Harvest time is once again upon us as peanuts are being dug in Frio and Atascosa counties as I write this. We missed the rain last week and I do not believe there is any in the immediate forecast. Hopefully conditions will stay dry for awhile longer while harvest progresses. Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) continues to steadily increase throughout the area. I am finding some areas pushing 20% TSWV infection, but with these fields at 110 dac, TSWV is not too much of a concern especially since these fields were under 5% infection at 60

dac. I received reports of rust in the area about two weeks ago and am now starting to really see areas flare up. For growers a week or two away from harvest and just now showing signs of infection, you might be able to make it to the end of the season without a fungicide application. For growers with longer to wait, a fungicide may be required. These can be difficult decisions at this point in the season, but the most important thing to remember is that you cannot afford to defoliate a crop that you have worked so hard to make. Give me a call if you need to discuss control options. Early and late leaf spot is also showing up in ever increasing amounts. I am not quite as worried about leaf spots as rust, but I would still keep an eye on it, especially if the peanuts have several weeks to go. Bean thrips continue to be present in most every field that I have looked at, but continue to sit tight, feed very little and not do much. It looks as if we may be in the clear as far as thrips are concerned, but keep an eye on them.

## Cotton

We have experienced two seasons in a row with drastically different growing conditions yet very similar results. Last year was wet and mild, this year was hot and dry, but both have produced good yields. Actually this year's hot and dry conditions look to be yielding better. We will have to wait and see how the grades turn out. With harvest complete the main task at hand for cotton producers becomes stalk destruction. From what I have seen around the area, growers are doing a great job of destroying stalks this year, mostly by plowing. **Just remember, the stalk destruction deadline is October 10, 2005.**

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Brad Easterling, EA-IPM

## Pasture and Hay

Dr. Noel Troxclair, Extension Entomologist from Uvalde has received reports of armyworms and fall armyworms in Frio, Atascosa, Medina, and Zavala counties infesting pastures and hay fields. In some cases fields are being completely stripped. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or want me to take a look at your place.

## Last Chance CEU's

The Frio County Extension Office will have a last chance CEU program on November 17, 2005. The program will be from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. and 8 CEU's will be given in 2 hour increments. You will only have to be present for the CEU's that you need. An agenda will be sent out in the next newsletter.

**Remember: Licensed private applicators are required to re-certify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits including 2 credits in Laws & Regulations and 2 credits in IPM or Drift Management.**