

# Pest Management Report

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

400 S. Pecan Pearsall, TX 78061, Phone: 830-334-3290, Fax: 830-334-2752, E-Mail: [breasterling@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:breasterling@ag.tamu.edu)

March 19, 2004

Volume 3, No. 3

## General

With the couple of inches of rain, or more in some places over the last several weeks, the outlook for spring crops looks pretty good right now. Growers planting corn, sorghum, and cotton will have good deep moisture to plant in. It will be a good start to this year. This added moisture will hopefully push the wheat and oats and help increase yields. It is a big turn around from the early season dry weather we were having.

## Potatoes

Potatoes look real good right now. So far I have not seen any early season disease pressure or any potato psyllids. Be sure to scout your fields or have them scouted for you. We know the psyllids are out there, it is just a matter of time before they show up.

## Cotton

Cotton will be planted in the area any day now. 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 or 1-800-687-7704.

Also a reminder for growers thinking about planting cotton, if Cadre or Pursuit was applied on the field last year on peanuts, these chemicals have a 18 month plantback restriction for cotton. Strongarm has a 10 month plantback restriction for cotton. It will take a little planning ahead to add cotton to your rotation.

## Other Crops

Wheat and oats are looking pretty good right now, even the dryland. Cattle are being moved off fields which were grazed heavily or that are going to be harvested. Leaf Rust is showing up in fields which do not have much of a resistance to Leaf Rust. The more resistant varieties do not have a great deal of rust in them. So far I have not seen any fields with any worm or greenbug pressure.

Thrips populations have been increasing in onions lately. Growers should be on the lookout and be prepared to spray if necessary. Thresholds range from 5-25 thrips per plant depending on crop development and previous history. Pyrethroids have been used to control onion thrips effectively, while organophosphates and carbamates have been used on western flower thrips. Care should be taken to avoid resistance problems.

## Research Demonstrations

We are currently looking for couple of fields in Frio and/or Atascosa counties to put out some cotton variety trials. With the increase of cotton acreage in the area it is important that we find the best varieties suited for our area. We are also looking for a site to plant a peanut variety trial. Some of the southeastern universities have recently released some new varieties that we would like to evaluate. If anyone is interested in helping out with a trial this year or has any other ideas on some demonstrations you would like to see, give me a call.

## **Scouting**

Texas Cooperative Extension IPM Program will be scouting peanuts again this year and will also start scouting cotton. If anyone is interested in having their fields checked or has another crop they would like scouted contact Brad Easterling at (830)334-3290.

## **Newsletter**

This will be the last newsletter for anyone who has not updated our mailing list. If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter and have not returned your update form, please do so or call the office.

## **Texas Country Cleanup**

Unwanted pesticides, home chemicals, or used motor oil? Don't dump them, bring them to this local collection event for **FREE**, safe disposal. April 26, 2004, Pleasanton, Texas 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Texas Department of Transportation, 2145 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Pleasanton. For more information contact: Debra Wright, Ag. Waste Pesticide Coordinator (512)239-4749 or email at [dwright@tceq.state](mailto:dwright@tceq.state)

## **Result Demonstration Handbooks**

I am currently finishing up the 2003 Result Demonstration Handbook and should have them out in a few weeks. Anyone who would like one should contact my office.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension is implied.

Brad Easterling, EA-IPM