

Northwest Plains Pest Management News

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Bailey and Parmer Counties

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Cooler temperatures this week have brought temporary relief from the heat that had been dominating local weather. The forecast has high temperatures climbing back to the mid-90s next week.

Southwestern corn borer moths have been actively laying eggs this week. Currently



Hatched SWCB eggs.

white, red-line, and hatched eggs as well as small larvae are being found in most corn. Infestations have ranged from less than 10% to over 50% plants infested. The established economic threshold for Southwestern corn borer is when 20-25% of plants are infested with eggs or newly hatched larvae.

Care should be taken when treating for Southwestern corn borers when spider mites are active in the field. An insecticide which kills beneficial arthropods and has little or no activity on spider mites could

Daily Water Use	
Crop	Inches per day
Corn	.32-.36
Cotton	.29
Grain Sorghum	.25-.30
Bermuda grass	.18
Fescue/ Bluegrass	.24

Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation¹			
Location	Current	2004	Long Term ²
Farwell	1108	1014	
Friona	1131	1060	
Muleshoe	1104		1067
Muleshoe WR	1189	1152	

¹ DD 60 based on May 1

² Based on Muleshoe long term weather data 1971-2000

flare the mites. On the other hand natural enemy numbers have not been all that great to this point which may have allowed mites to increase in number of colonies and colony size. Lacewing larvae have started to hatch and many other eggs are present. These predators have been observed feeding on mites. All that said, treatment decisions including insecticide selection should consider the presence and density of both Southwestern corn borer and spider mites. Both Intrepid and Tracer have shown to provide adequate Southwestern corn borer control while conserving natural enemies which could suppress spider mites. Capture is labeled for both Southwestern corn borer and banks grass mites. Banks grass mite resistance to Capture has been documented north of Amarillo and could explain a general decline in overall satisfaction with its performance on mites here. Other insecticides which are labeled for Southwestern corn borer will have little or no activity on spider mites but could easily kill most beneficials.

Spider mites have surged this week in some area corn fields. While some fields continue to have very little mite pressure others have mites which have moved up to the middle of the plant and on occasion above the ear leaf. Most upper colonies are smaller than a quarter. Decisions to treat spider mites in corn should be based on % infested leaves, % leaf damage, treatment cost, and crop value, see the following table.

Control cost per acre	Market Value (\$) per acre				
	500	550	600	650	700
15	18/9	16/9	15/8	14/7	13/7
20	24/13	21/11	20/10	18/10	17/9
25	29/16	27/14	25/13	23/12	21/11

% infested leaves pr plant / % total leaf damage

The pest situation remains quiet in most area cotton fields. Lygus, stink bugs, loopers, aphids, and bollworms have been observed in many fields but in numbers well below threshold.

NMSU Clovis Science Center Field Day

New research on water-conserving crops will highlight an evening field day Aug. 2 at New Mexico State University's Agricultural Science Center at Clovis. Several different types of drought-tolerant crops, including sorghums, millets, cotton and sunflowers will be discussed. The free program begins with registration at 5 p.m. (mountain time), and a field tour starts at 7 p.m. at NMSU's 164-acre science center, located 13 miles north of Clovis on State Road 288. For more information about the field day, or if you are an individual with a

disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, contact Mark Marsalis in advance at (505) 985-2292 or e-mail marsalis@nmsu.edu.

Regional Alfalfa Workshop

A regional alfalfa workshop will be held August 12 beginning at 9:00am at the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe, TX. Speakers from Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, and New Mexico State University will present information on the agronomics of alfalfa, weed control including Roundup Ready alfalfa, variety selection, and pest management. The workshop will end with lunch, during which a short segment concerning the forage characteristics that the market desires will be presented by a local end user. There will be a \$15 registration fee which will cover lunch and an alfalfa production handbook. For more information about the field day, or if you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, contact Curtis Preston in advance at (806) 272-4583.




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