

Northwest Plains Pest Management News

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Bailey and Parmer Counties

August 5, 2005

Scattered showers have accompanied the cool front which moved into the area Thursday afternoon. Precipitation amounts have been reported from a trace to near one inch where rain was received. Some area producers whose irrigation systems have not been able to keep up with crop demand are in desperate need of precipitation in order to maintain current yield potential. A good general rain would have a huge impact on many area crops.

Most area corn is in the milk stage and is requiring about .30 inches of moisture per day. Daily moisture requirements will decrease fairly rapidly over the next three weeks.

Spider mites are expanding in most corn fields. Some fields have mites exceeding economic threshold and a few have large colonies in the middle of the plant and are teetering on blowing out the top. Adequate irrigation can help corn tolerate mite pressure and may help keep a small mite

Daily Water Use	
Crop	Inches per day
Corn	.32
Cotton	.29
Grain Sorghum	.25
Bermuda grass	.14
Fescue/ Bluegrass	.18

Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation¹			
Location	Current	2004	Long Term ²
Farwell	1204	1117	
Friona	1225	1161	
Muleshoe	1182		1185
Muleshoe WR	1285	1240	

¹ DD 60 based on May 1

² Based on Muleshoe long term weather data 1971-2000

population from developing into a real problem.

If spider mite populations have exceeded economic threshold do not wait to make a management decision. Whether you chose to treat, or not, plan on sticking with your decision because late treatments may not provide adequate control to justify the costs. Oberon, a new miticide labeled for corn, has shown to be an effective management tool but is slow to work and has relatively no “knockdown” effect. Oberon is soft on beneficials and should perform best where beneficials are conserved, the old “one two punch” so to speak. Oberon may not meet control expectations where large mite colonies have developed at or above the ear leaf due to its slow mode of action. There is a good chance that the mites will blow out the top before it has a chance to work.

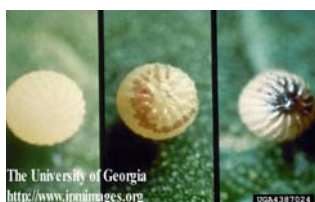


P Porter
Texas Cooperative Extension

Large mite colony on corn leaf.

The pest situation remains fairly quiet in most area cotton. Lygus bug populations have increased in some fields, numbers have ranged from 0 to 5,500 per acre. Remember the economic threshold for Lygus after cotton has reached full bloom is 8,800 per acre.

Low numbers of bollworms have been observed in some fields but the primary egg lay has not commenced as of today. Moths are attracted to and lay eggs readily in cotton that is producing an abundance of new growth. Moths usually lay single eggs on the tops of young, tender terminal leaves in the upper third of the plant. Eggs are pearly white to cream color and about half



Various stages of bollworm eggs.

the size of a pinhead. These should not be confused with looper eggs, which are flatter and usually laid singly on the undersides of leaves. Eggs hatch in 3 to 4 days, turning light brown before hatching. Young worms usually feed for a day or two on tender leaves, leaf buds and small squares in the plant terminal before moving down the plant to attack larger squares and bolls. When small worms are in the upper third of the plant, they are most vulnerable to control by insecticides and beneficial insects and spiders.

Infestation levels should be estimated by making whole plant inspections of five randomly chosen sets of three adjacent cotton plants at several sites within the field. Count the number of eggs, worms and key predators encountered and estimate the number of eggs, worms or key predators per acre.

Treatment may be justified when counts average 8,000-10,000 or more small worms per acre. The actual treatment level will vary according to the ability of the individual scout to locate small larvae, the age structure of the infestation, maturity of the crop and crop value. If two or more key predators are found for each small worm, control measures may not be needed or a microbial insecticide may be used.

Beef and Forage Meeting

August 10, 2005

8:30 am cst

Farwell Community Center

Featured topics will include: national livestock ID system, beef quality assurance, stocker cattle management, Texas animal health regulations, nutrition management for stocker cattle, and forage selection for grazing. Lunch will be provided by Hi-Pro Feeds. For more information about the meeting, or if you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, contact Parmer County Extension in advance at (806) 481-3619.



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