

# Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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## GENERAL SITUATION

Dry conditions continue to dominate the area. Corn and grain sorghum is in need of a rainfall. A number of cotton fields need a rain to come up to a full stand. Wheat could use some moisture to finish out.

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*Texas Country Clean-up will not be held this year. A date was set but was cancelled due to budget constraints. Texas Country Clean-ups have been cancelled across the state.*

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## WHEAT

Fall and true armyworms in the IPM Scouting Program will range from 0-7 per square foot. The economic threshold is 4-5 per square foot. In the past with limited amount of green leaf material (IE: flag and partial F-1) we used a threshold of 3 or more per square foot.

Freeze damage in wheat appears to be minimal in my observations throughout the county. I did see one field in the Files Valley area that I was more concerned about. Evaluating freeze damage is difficult and accurate evaluations may not be fully determined until harvest.

*A wheat tour will be May 9, at 3:30 PM in the Itasca area. Prior to the wheat tour, there will be an opportunity to receive 2 hours of laws and regulations at the Exhibits Building in Hillsboro at 1:00 PM. A letter will be sent out next week with more details on the tour and CEU opportunities.*

## GRAIN SORGHUM and CORN

Greenbugs and yellow sugarcane aphids are in very light to non-existent in numbers in grain sorghum. Most of the grain sorghum has a soil insecticide or a systemic insecticide seed treatment on it from planting. Control from these treatments is looking good for aphids.

Chinch bugs are being seen in some area fields on corn and grain sorghum. Adult chinch bugs are a 1/16 of an inch long, that are black with reddish-yellow legs. They have fully developed white fore wings, each of which has a black triangular spot at the middle of the outer margin. Immature chinch bugs resemble adults in shape but lack wings. Young nymphs are yellowish later turning reddish with a white or pale yellow band across the front of the abdomen. Older nymphs are black or grey.



Adult and immature chinch bugs suck juices from stem, leaves or underground plant parts. Young plants are more susceptible. Chinch bugs favor hot, dry weather. To find chinch bugs carefully examine plants and surrounding soil. Make at least 5 random checks per field.

Apply insecticides when 2 or more chinch bugs are found on 20% of seedling corn and grain sorghum plants less than 6 inches tall. On taller corn and grain sorghum plants, insecticide often is justified when chinch bugs infest 75% of the plants. (Counter and in particular Gaucho and Cruiser appear to be working well on chinch bugs.)

## COTTON

Thrips are in light numbers. Cotton aphids are light with a slight increase.