

# Blacklands IPM Newsletter

P.O. Box 318

Hillsboro, TX 76645

May 8, 2003

Vol. IX No. 3

  
Marty Jungman  
Extension Agent-Rest Management  
Office: 254/582-3551 Fax: 254/582-4021

Hill-McLennan County  
Web Site: [entowww.tamu.edu](http://entowww.tamu.edu)  
E-Mail: [m-jungman@tamu.edu](mailto:m-jungman@tamu.edu)

## GENERAL SITUATION

The majority of the corn and grain sorghum has good to adequate moisture. Most of Hill and northern McLennan County received 1 inch or more of rain last week. There are areas that recorded a 1/2 inch or less and in greater need of additional moisture. Grain sorghum will range in size from just coming up to two feet tall. Corn will vary from 12 inches to four feet tall. In general, corn and grain sorghum are growing off well. Cotton growth stage will range from just coming up to the 5<sup>th</sup> true leaf stage. There are a few fields of cotton that have not been planted due to soil moisture conditions.

## CORN and GRAIN SORGHUM

**Chinch bugs** continue to be seen in some area fields in corn and grain sorghum. Damage includes stunting of the plants, reddening at the base of the plant and root pruning.

**Greenbugs** will range from non-existent to light in numbers.

**Yellow sugarcane aphids** will range from non-existent to light in numbers. I am starting to see sugarcane aphids on scattered plants in a few area fields.

**Grasshoppers** are being seen in area pastures, waterways and roadsides. The grasshoppers are very small, 1/4 inch or less in size.

**Fall armyworms** are moving out of wheat fields into adjacent to corn, grain sorghum and cotton fields. Corn and grain sorghum with size will not be as much of a problem.

## COTTON

Cotton has progressed rapidly over the past week. The warmer temperatures and moisture has accelerated plant growth.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Producers with Roundup-Ready cotton should monitor their fields closely for plant growth stage and time the Roundup application prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> true leaf reaching the size of a quarter. Farmers should anticipate adverse weather (wind or rainfall) and apply this application early enough to insure plants have not exceeded the recommended size.*

*Warmer temperatures have accelerated plant growth. Cotton is growing-off quicker than expected.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thrips** numbers are light and approaching moderate in some area fields. Orthene® and Cruiser® seed treatments appear to be working adequately in the majority of the fields. However, we are starting to see some fields with more thrips numbers and some damage to the newest leaf in Orthene, Gaucho and Cruiser systemic insecticide seed treatments. In most cases, the cotton will not need to be sprayed prior to the Roundup application on Roundup-Ready cotton. Cotton that has just emerged or has just been planted

may be an exception.

**Cotton aphids** are in light numbers. In most fields there has been a reduction in aphid numbers over the past week mainly due to beneficial insect activity. There are some fields with more aphid numbers.

**Spider mites** are in non-existent to light numbers in most fields. I have seen two fields where mite numbers were in moderate to heavy numbers. This is a pest that we will need to keep an eye on if the weather remains dry.

**Grasshoppers** are being seen in area pastures, waterways and roadsides. Producers will need to start monitoring their cotton adjacent to these areas for stand loss.

**Fall armyworms** are starting to move out of wheat fields and producers should monitor their cotton adjacent to these fields.

**Beet armyworms** are being seen in very light numbers.

**Overwintered boll weevil** traps are being set out this week.