

Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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Hill-McLennan County

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GENERAL SITUATION

Rainfall has been recorded in the area with totals ranging from 0 - .4 of an inch on May 20 and .2 - .5 of an inch on May 21. The cooler weather conditions have also helped corn and grain sorghum from drought stress. Corn has begun to tassel in some area fields. The rest of the corn is not far behind. A few grain sorghum fields have started to head. The majority of the grain sorghum will range from just prior to boot to boot. Cotton growth stage will range from 1 true leaf to a few days from 1/3 grown square. The majority of the cotton will range from pinhead to match-head square.

This year has been somewhat similar to last year as far as dry conditions and stage of the crop. Last year was dry during the same period of time. Corn was also beginning to tassel and grain sorghum ranged from pre-boot to just beginning to boot. Cotton growth stage ranged from 3 true leaves to match-head square with most of the cotton at pinhead square. Rainfall was recorded on May 17 ranging from .1 - 1 inch.

WHEAT

Wheat yields in general have been higher than expected. The majority of the fields are recording yields between 45-55 bushels. There is some wheat with lower yields. Harvested acres for the area would be less than 25%.

CORN and GRAIN SORGHUM

Chinch bugs continue to be a problem in some area fields.

Greenbugs will range from light to almost moderate. We have seen an increase in numbers over the past week. Beneficial activity is also on the increase.

Yellow sugarcane aphids are in non-existent to light numbers.

Corn leaf aphids have increased in numbers over the past couple of weeks. We have seen some fields with leaf reddening in the whorl of the plant from high aphid numbers. Corn leaf aphids do not inject a toxin and are located in the whorl of the plant. This is also an insect that we usually do not treat with an insecticide. Spraying for corn leaf aphids could cause other insect problems later in the season. There is also a large amount of milo that will start heading soon and this will also reduce numbers. The rainfall we received may have been enough to reduce corn leaf aphid numbers.

Grasshoppers continue to move out of pastures, waterways and roadsides to the edges of corn and grain sorghum fields. Producers should monitor crops located next to grassy areas. Producers when selecting a material to spray for grasshoppers should consider the possibility of greenbugs, yellow sugarcane aphids and spider mite numbers flaring up. Some producers have been using Lorsban® at 3/4 pint per acre because of this reason. As grasshoppers increase in size this rate will need to be increased.

Whatever product you select, read the label carefully and keep in mind the number of days to harvest for grain and/or silage.

Spider mites are being seen in a few fields of corn and grain sorghum. I did see one field of grain sorghum where the lower leaves turned red from spider mites. The area of the field with mites was next to a waterway.

COTTON

Cotton has progressed rapidly up until this recent cool spell. The crop compared to previous year's is a week earlier. This is not only from an earlier planting date but also warmer weather conditions.

Thrips will range from light to heavy numbers. The majority of the cotton is past thrips damage. The later planted cotton should be monitored closely for thrips. Orthene® and Cruiser® seed treatments on this later planted cotton may not last as long as expected.

Cotton aphids will range from non-existent to light in numbers.

Spider mites will vary from non-existent to moderate in numbers. In most fields, spider mites are in very light to non-existent numbers.

Fleahoppers will range in numbers from 2-84 per 100 terminals. Producers will need to monitor this insect closely. Two insecticide applications will be necessary to achieve adequate percent square set. (One or more of these applications will be an overwintered boll weevil/fleahopper treatment.)

Beet armyworms larvae are being seen in light numbers in some area fields. We have seen a little more activity from this pest compared to previous years. Beet armyworm trap counts are in moderate numbers.

BEE T ARMYWORM TRAP COUNT

	2003	2002
5/20	156	113

Overwintered boll weevil trap counts are light to moderate. Total weevil trap captures for the week

was 18 as compared to two this time last year.

I would urge all producers to apply one to two insecticide applications for overwintered weevils. Reducing overwintered weevil numbers is an important aspect of Blackland cotton production and maintaining beneficials throughout the remainder of the season. Producers should try to complete overwintered weevil/fleahopper insecticide applications by June 4 and start building up beneficial insects.

**OVERWINTERING BOLL WEEVIL
PHEROMONE TRAP CATCHES**

AREA/PRODUCER	5/13	5/20
ITASCA/COVINGTON:		
Loren Weaver	0	0
James Ray Schronk	0	0
CHATT:		
Edwin Hejl	0	0
Barney Pustejovsky	0	3
Joe Sinkule	0	1
BYNUM:		
Leroy Walters	0	0
Ronnie Nowlin	0	0
BRANDON:		
Larry Degner #1	0	0
Aaron Walters	1	0
MALONE:		
Charles Trompler	0	11
Ronnie Radke	1	0
Kenneth Machac	3	2
Larry Degner #2	0	0
WEST/COTTONWOOD:		
John C. Polansky	0	0
Richard Holy	1	0
PENELOPE:		
Thomas Holy	0	0
AQUILLA:		
Ronnie Gerik #1	0	0
Ronnie Gerik #2	2	0
Dennis Gerik	1	1