

“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Update on Integrated Pest Management in Crosby and Floyd Counties

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Cotton producers in this area have had an extremely hard time getting the crop started this year with cooler temperatures, blowing sand from all directions, dried soil even after pre-watering and bouts with wire worms, grasshoppers, thrips and even false chinch bugs in some isolated areas. A small number of producers have replanted where they have not succeeded in establishing an adequate stand. As much trouble as producers have had, treating for thrips with a ground rig and simultaneously applying a foliar feed to save cotton stands seems worth the money as our planting window seems to be closing rapidly. Degree day accumulations through May 29th have been slow - low night time temps. in mid-May have thwarted plans of an early start.

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
412.5	493.5	460.5	458

The scouts are finding thrips in treatable numbers next to wheat residue, bar ditches and CRP corners primarily. Orthene[®] (or a similar product) at a medium rate applied in a band with ammonium sulfate (17 lbs. / 100 gals. of solution) should allow cotton to get a head start on thrips numbers. Cotton reaching the five to seven true leaf stage is probably out of the woods regarding a thrips threat, but each field and field problem is individual in nature. Three Cruiser[®] treated seed varieties in a Crosby County variety test plot have been tested against three untreated varieties (with insecticide). After five days post-treatment, thrips numbers averaged twice (11.14 vs. 5.68) the

number as non-Cruiser varieties treated on May 28th with 2.0 ozs. of Orthene[®] (alone) in 15.0 gals./acre of broadcast solution. The point is moot, however, as all varieties warrant another foliar application to eliminate the problem on three true leaf cotton. Foliar applications and, possibly seed treatments, would probably have an even greater effect in situations where temperatures and general nasty weather conditions were not the norm as they have been this year, holding cotton back.

Traps for lepidopterous pests have shown little activity so far and have been ravaged by wind which leads to questioning accuracy. The three areas trapped are A) East Plains, B) south of Ralls and C) East of Floydada (3 miles) on Hwy. 70.

A) Bollworm	11 moths/trap
Budworm	3
Beet Army	20
B) Bollworm	Trap
Budworm	Damage
BAW	34
C) Bollworm	13
Budworm	6
BAW	17

Acreage sign-up is progressing well and I would like to thank all those producers for participating in the program, especially those cooperating in Demonstration projects in cotton and pumpkins. This office welcomes ideas and volunteers to further develop our demonstration projects.

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