

“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Vital Crop Production Information for *Crosby* and *Floyd* Counties

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There was no newsletter for the week of July 5th through 9th in part due to our “modern wireless internet” being on the ‘fritz’. I do regret this occurrence.

☞ **Heat Unit** accumulation totals from Crosbyton as of July 12 ;

| <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1,406 | 1,208 | 1,298 | 1,375 | 1,120 |

☞ **Degree day** accumulations average **22.75** per day for the last twelve days. It is noteworthy that all years are beginning to approach a closer similarity. As July and August heat become the norm, we should hold the lead over previous years, but the margin will close somewhat. Had it not been for the extremely hot May 2004, current levels would show closer proximity.

☞ **Moisture** in the form of rainfall has been absent since July 6th with reported totals at that time being;

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| McCoy Gin | 1.0 inch |
| Lockney Coop Gin | 0.2 |
| Pleasant Hill Gin | 2.0 |
| Owens Gin | 1.0 |
| ACG Crosbyton | 1.8 |

The rain was certainly a blessing overall, but ‘hot and dry’ are welcome to get our cotton fertility caught up.

☞ **Weather** patterns dumping rain throughout the spring have increased mosquito populations area-wide, as expected. Playa lakes offer an excellent breeding site, and as the water stagnates, those mosquitoes emerging from that stagnant environment are more likely to transmit encephalitis and like

diseases than the flood water-type mosquitoes that are more common right after a rain. We must follow precautions to limit exposure to these pests.

☞ One human case of **West Nile Virus** has been reported from **Olton**, Texas, this year and is recent enough *not* to have made the report in the **Center for Disease Control** website.

Information regarding disease progress, infected mosquito captures, disposition of human cases, and practices leading to prevention techniques may be accessed at

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/>

Human cases in **Arizona** have been the most numerous in the United States with one, and currently only one, resulting death reported as of July 6th.

☞ **Program cotton** ranges in age from pinhead square to 25% bloom and is retaining, on average, 92.75 % of the square load. Color is excellent, especially in those drip and sprinkler-irrigated fields that have had a much-needed, albeit delayed, nutrient injection. With the current boll/square load, a timely rain would be welcome this weekend.

☞ There are **no** pest problems in program cotton noted to date. Fleahoppers, Lygus and other pests are in extremely low numbers with no sign of bollworms, beet armyworms or any other lepidopteran pests at this time, except in traps.

☞ **Beneficial insects and spiders** are still evident in all cotton fields and will provide excellent “first-line” protection against small worm populations, should they appear. The scouts are finding 3 to 7 thousand per acre of

these 'little helpers' in all combinations throughout the two county area.

☞ **Plant growth regulators** (PGR 's) for cotton are the true 'buzz' in the coffee shops and gin offices this week. Applications of plant growth regulators have been made to cotton to control excessive growth. Dr. Randy Boman, Area Cotton Agronomist and Specialist, has provided an excellent review of these products (mepiquat chloride and mepiquat pentaborate) in the July 2 issue of *Focus on Entomology*. It can be found on the TAMU Lubbock website at <http://lubbock.edu/cotton>.

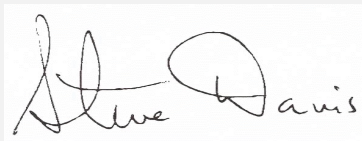
Dr. Boman indicates, that with the increased temperatures and dryer conditions of this last week, plant growth should be self-limiting and PGRs may not be necessary, however, applications should be made on a field-by-field basis, as he indicates.

Chaperone ® is a new PGR product which claims to enhance 'protein transport' in the cotton plant. Dr. Boman will be evaluating this product in Crosby County this year.

☞ **Squash bug** presence is still evident in all program **pumpkin** fields and egg lay continues but appears to be slowing. Egg hatch that was to begin two weeks ago, has not happened as predicted; eggs remain present and intact, seemingly still viable, but no hatch has been noted to date. Of the last four seasons, this is the first that has not produced squash bug nymphs within 10 to 12 days following initial egg deposition. Scouting is critical now more so than before as there is at least 10 times more plant tissue present in these fast-growing pumpkins since egg lay has begun. Bloom and bud-set are common in all program pumpkin fields.

☞ The **2nd Annual High Plains Vegetable and Weed Control Field Day** is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2004, at the Research and Extension Center at 1102 East FM 1294, north of the Lubbock Airport (exit 11 off I-27). Lunch is provided if RSVP is received by August 3rd. Contact Wendy Durrett at (806)746-6101. Dr. Russ Wallace, Extension Vegetable Specialist, will give 2 CEU's and will display variety, herbicide and fungicide trial information of importance to cucurbit producers.

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