

“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Update on Integrated Pest Management in Crosby and Floyd Counties

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Heat unit accumulations for cotton through July 10th are;

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
1,070	1,324	1,265	1,159

Water usage in cotton at this time is increasing rapidly as most older fields are squaring with some blooms visible. Hot and dry conditions with moderate winds are exactly what the doctor ordered for cotton in our area. Heat units, even though low, are accumulating on average of 18-20 per day. This fact alone should trigger irrigation initiation (especially under a center pivot) at this time for squaring, pre-bloom cotton. It doesn't appear that "Claudette" will supply moisture on time or even in quantities necessary to ensure High Plains cotton production is supplemented. Cotton in our area ranges from 5-7 true leaf to two-day-old bolls. Square set in these older fields is excellent at 85 to 90 % with very few aborted squares being noted. Earlier cotton, that has survived all the turmoil of this spring , **is beginning** it's maximum water usage at this time as squaring cotton utilizes upwards of approximately **0.25** inches per day up to **0.4** inches per day (depending largely on soil type and heat) **through the peak bloom stage.** The current initial fruit set on this late cotton is very critical and must be protected as the longevity of this growing season cannot be accurately predicted.

Currently, our older, squaring IPM program cotton has a few small **aphid** colonies starting to develop. **Lady beetles** and **Minute Pirate Bugs** seem to be taking

them out as fast as they develop. Lady beetle **eggs** are common in some fields indicating they are establishing residence due to a food source (aphids) being present. **Crab spiders** (our best general predator in cotton) are small in stature and in numbers found in most fields. They seem to be cycling in and will continue to establish now that a canopy is present for protection. Very few **fleahoppers** have been seen this year in this area and no **Lygus** reported from program cotton .

Cotton boll worm/budworm larvae have been found or their feeding scars have been reported from the East Plains and Cone areas, however, in Crosby/Floyd Program cotton, there are no worm problems at this time - natural enemies at work. There was an anticipated egg-lay this week with the full moon of last week end, but no evidence has been noted to date of such an egg-lay.

Trap counts for lepidopterous pests have remained low. Data from this week indicate;

	A) <u>South of Ralls</u>	B) <u>East Plains</u>	C) <u>East of Floydada</u>
Boll worm--	20	28	23
Bud worm--	10	15	11
Beet Army worm-	26	29	21

Meetings of interest:

Texas A & M University Research & Extension Center in Lubbock will be starting a new tradition by hosting the **1st annual High Plains Vegetable and Weed Control Research Field Day on July 30** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** The Research & Extension Center is located at 1102 East FM 1294 just

north of the Lubbock International Airport off Interstate 27 (Exit 11).

The field day will include a short presentation on general weed control practices in vegetable crops, and a discussion of new potential herbicides for the future (we will have 2.0 general CEU's available). A walking tour of research plots located on the station will include the statewide watermelon variety trial, as well as herbicide research in pumpkins, cantaloupes, peppers (bell, chili & jalapeno), snap beans and tomatoes. Fungicide research for powdery mildew control in pumpkins and cantaloupes will be reviewed as well.

Lunch will be provided free to those in attendance, however, we will need you to RSVP by July 23rd by contacting Wendy Durrett at 806-746-6101.

Additionally, for those interested in Black-eye peas and pinto bean weed control, there will be an afternoon tour of the plots located at the Halfway Research & Extension Center (a 45 minute drive) beginning at 2:00 p.m. We appreciate your attendance and support. For further information, please contact Russ Wallace at 806-746-4052.

Also, there is a Peanut Turnrow meeting scheduled for July 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the Brad Aycock Farm near Robertson in SW Crosby County. Texas Cooperative Extension Specialists in peanuts and several industry representatives will be present to answer questions regarding peanut production. The exact location is 1 mile North of the Gin on FM 378 and 1 mile East on the county road (unmarked). This is approximately 6 miles South of Lorenzo on FM 378. For more information, contact Mark Brown, CEA Lubbock Co. at (806) 767-1190 or Steve Young, CEA Crosby Co. at (806) 675-2347. We hope for a large turnout at both meetings.

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