



“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

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

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☛ **Cotton** maturity in Crosby and Floyd Counties ranges from past cut-out in dryland fields, to 1 to 5 nodes above first position white flower (NAWF), or at cut-out, in irrigated fields.

☛ Latest heat unit accumulations are **1,814** HU's through August 23, 2005, (since January 1) with the average for the same time frame for the past **5** years yielding approximately **2,259** HU's accumulated for that same period. From May 1 through August 23, 2005, there have been **1,755** HU's accumulated.

Growth Stage	From Emergence	From Previous Stage
1 st True Leaf	16	16
Pin-head Square	455	439
Match-head Square	560	105
1/3 Grown Square	770	210
First Bloom	1064	294
First Open Boll	1641	577
95% Mature Bolls	2271	630

☛ **Dr. Randy Boman**, Area Cotton Specialist, will be in the county on **September 28, 2005**, for our annual **Crosby County Crop Tour** that has been tentatively set to examine three cotton variety trials (row-watered on Jim Parkhill, dryland on Marty Davis and sub-surface irrigated on Regan Ware) and one plant growth regulator trial. Hopefully a harvest-aid trial will be ready by then, but the location is not known at this time.

☛ **Cotton bollworm** infestations flared last Saturday in a few Program fields which had to be treated with pyrethroid insecticides. They continue to be found in low numbers in untreated fields (500 to 1,000 per acre) but, as a whole, seem to be 'cutting out' along with the cotton. Most are being found under remaining bloom tags.

☛ Numbers of **bollworm moths** trapped has decreased almost as quickly as it has risen and seems to be on a permanent decline.

☛ **Beet armyworm** moth activity from trapping remains negligible and will not be reported further.

☛ **Cucurbit Crops:**

☛ **Powdery mildew** continues to be found in all Program fields. Vines are declining rapidly and yellowing in areas where water has stood following irrigation and recent rains. There have been at least three, and in some cases four, applications of fungicide for powdery mildew this season.

☛ If one disease was not enough, **Tommy Assiter** has found evidence of *anthracnose*, a late-season fungal pathogen, on some older pumpkin fruit in a field on the Floyd/Crosby County line. This is a late-season pest that appears periodically after irrigation and rainfall with little time to dry out. This according to information from Dr. Tom Isakeit, Plant Pathologist at College Station. This pathogen first appears on leaves, moves to the stems, and will eventually progress to the fruit causing rounded, tissue decay with a distinct margin. It has been likened to the appearance of pitting caused by small hail stones.

There are several fungicides that have successfully been used to treat this problem, most of which we used earlier in the season for powdery mildew control. Dr. Isakeit stresses that two (or more) fungicides from different chemical classes, or families, have been most successful when used simultaneously in studies he has conducted. For example, **Bravo®** and **Mancozeb®** or

Topsin -M ® and **Cabrio** ® are two possible combinations. It is important to remember that Bravo and Cabrio are in the same family or class of chemistry.

Mention of these trade names is for clarification purposes, only, and no solicitation of these products is intended or implied.

☛ I had the pleasure of attending a water conservation and irrigation training with Drs. Leon New and Dana Porter recently. Both are field research-oriented and want to help answer relevant questions posed by local producers. Research is lacking regarding practical, everyday questions that we can answer at the county level. The most frequently asked of those questions is, “when can I shut my water off? ”, mentioned several times by Dr. New during his presentation. County Extension Agents can help answer that question, although a bit late to try and tackle in this year’s row crops. I am planning to attempt a water project in sub-surface irrigated cotton and one in LEPA irrigated cotton next year - all I need to get started is a cooperator (or two) willing to put up with this project for one season. I would like to begin a project in wheat this fall, as well, measuring pivot efficiency and using moisture blocks to further fine-tune irrigation scheduling. Irrigation is a foundation block for “the world’s largest cotton patch” and practical research dealing with this extremely important parameter of High Plains agriculture has too long been on the back burner. Limited funding and public interest have led to a limited knowledge base, not due to lack of interest or involvement by the engineers.



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