


Issues In Agriculture

The Newsletter About Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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COTTON

General Crop Conditions

Most of the fields I looked at this week were either well into cut out with Nodes Above White Flower<4 (NAWF<4) or just at cut out (NAWF=4). Cotton physiologists define cutout to be when NAWF equal 4-5. Before then, approximately 100 flowers will produce 1 pound of seed cotton. After cotton reaches cutout, the number of flowers needed to produce 1 pound of seed cotton increases dramatically.

I have seen very few cracked or open bolls but there are a few fields that were planted early, are an early maturing variety or have open bolls due to stress. Most producers are putting on their final irrigation or preparing for that final irrigation.

Heat unit accumulations for the last two weeks were 279.5. This is a little less than the two year average (2002-2003) of 377. If we use averages from the last two years to predict HU accumulations for the month of September, we would expect to have 398.5 DD60 accumulated in September 2004. Use the table below to estimate crop maturity and time defoliant/desiccants.



Growth Interval	Calendar Days		Accumulated heat units
	Mean	Range	
Planting to:			
Stand establishment	7	5 -13	78
First true leaf	16	11 - 25	
Squaring	36	29 - 41	526
1/3 grown square	44	36 - 49	
First bloom	61	45 - 81	1064
Peak bloom	79	59 - 102	
First open boll	96	88 - 106	1641
95% mature bolls	146	129 - 163	2271
Boll development:			
Fiber length established:	First 18-45 days		
Fiber micronaire and strength determined:	Next 20-60 days		

Insect Activity

There haven't been a whole lot of reports of insect activity in the valley during the last two weeks. Lygus continue to be a concern in upland fields and are continuing to be treated across the valley. Listed below are recommended insecticides and rates for lygus control and in next week's newsletter I will report the results of our lygus insecticide trial just completed today.

Monitoring NAWF is also key to making late-season insect decisions. While thresholds change a little as the season progresses we still worry about the same insects damaging our crop. For example blooms that accumulate 350HU DD60 are reportedly safe from lygus damage, but are not safe from newly hatched bollworm larvae until 450HU have been accumulated after cutout.

We will start monitoring whitefly populations in the valley on September 13th and that information will be reported weekly through the end of September.

Insecticides for Lygus

<i>Insecticide</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Orthene® 97	8 - 16 oz
Capture® 2E	2.6 - 6.4 oz
Baythroid® 2E	1.6 - 2.6 oz
Leverage® 2.7SE	3.75 oz
Karate® 1E	2.56 - 3.84 oz
Karate® 2.08 CS	1.28 - 1.92 oz
Ammo® 2.5 E	2 - 5 oz
Decis® 1.5 E	1.11 - 1.62 oz

<i>Insecticide</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Bidrin® 8E	8 oz
Dimate® 4E	8 oz
Dimethoate® 2.67E	10.7 oz
Dimethoate® 4E	8 oz
Dimethoate® 5E	6.4 oz
Asana XL® 0.66E	5.8 - 9.6 oz
Provado® 1.6F	3.75 oz

<i>Insecticide</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Lannate® 2.4LV	0.75 pt
Methyl Parathion 4E	1 - 2 pts
Vydate® 2L	1 pt
Vydate® 3.77 C-LV	12.7 - 34.0oz
Parathion 8E	8 - 16 oz
Scout®X-tra 0.9E	2.28 - 2.84 oz
Fury® 1.5 E	2.99 - 4.26 oz

DEGREE DAY AND WEATHER INFORMATION

	2004 Upper Valley	2004 Lower Valley	2003 Lower Valley	2002 Lower Valley
PBW Jan. 1	3191	3170.5	3292.5	3458.5
Cotton April 15	2277.5	2249	2420	2462.5
Pecans Jan. 1	6679	6742	6982	7018.5
PNC March 20	5964	5941	6051.5	6098

Temperatures as of September 2, 2004

