



Courthouse, Room B-8 Seminole, TX 79360

June 3, 2004

Gaines County Cotton/Peanut News

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Survey program

The scouting program is designed so that the IPM agent can become familiar with what is taking place around the county by actually being out in the fields. The information gathered will be distributed to growers, consultants and businesses via this newsletter on a weekly to by-weekly basis. The program is looking at 2820 acres that are spread out over the entire county (cotton: 1860, peanuts: 960). Fields were chosen in specific areas so that there would be equal representation from each area in the county.

The funding for the program was given in the form of donations from many of the local businesses. A list of those businesses is located at the end of this newsletter. Without the support and donations from these establishments the success of this program would be limited.

General Situation

Conditions in our area and throughout much of the Southern High Plains have been hot, dry and windy. Sand storms last week caused major damage to young cotton with most damage being sustained by those crops that had not been planted into a terminated cover crop. The current conditions are ideal for cotton growth and development if you can get the water to it. Peanuts on the other hand prefer slightly cooler temperatures for optimum growth. Later in the season growers will need to remember the high temperatures we are having at this time because development will likely have been delayed. We are looking at cotton that varies in growth from the 1-2 true leaf stage in the Northern parts of the county to pinhead squares in the Western and Southern portions of the county. Peanuts are in the pre-bloom stage across the county.

What's Happening in the Cotton

Thrips:

With fields in the Northern part of the county at the 2 true leaf stage thrips activity needs to be monitored on a regular basis. Heavy thrips migration can occur as bordering crops and or weeds dry down and mature. Prolonged migration can occur for fields that are next to range land so keep a careful watch on those. Cotton across the Southern portion of the county is further along but not out of harms way. Fields that were treated with at-plant systemic insecticides are showing signs that the residual is wearing off. These fields need to be monitored closely as heavy infestations may destroy terminal buds resulting in stunted growth. Treatment is advised when the number of thrips is 2 or more per leaf. *Be careful when scouting as thrips damage and wind damage both cause curling of leaves.

The following is a list of foliar applied insecticides for thrips control. Caution is advised however, if Bidrin is used, due to potential resistance problem with cotton aphids. **Additionally, I would like to point out that due to the recent increase in heat units, many fields could simply outrun damaging levels of this pest.**

Insecticide	Class	Formulated Amount	Precaution Status	Re-Entry Interval
		Per Acre (oz)		
Orthene 90s	OP	1.67-3.2	C	24
Guthion 2L	OP	8	D	48***
Bidrin 8E	OP	0.8-3.2	D	48***
Dimethoate 2.67 E	OP	5.3-10.5	W	12
Dimate [®] 4 E	OP	4-8 oz	W	12
Methyl Parathion (4E)	OP	4.0-8.0	D	48***
***Re-entry interval is 72 hours in areas where the average rainfall is less than 25 inches.				
OP=organophosphate; C=carbamate				
C=Caution; W=Warning; D=Danger				
Time after application before re-entering fields without protective clothing.				

Grasshoppers:

Grasshoppers are among the most widespread and damaging pests in Texas. Two families have been identified during scouting. They are the band-winged grasshoppers which fly after jumping. The others are lubber grasshoppers which are better known as jumbo grasshoppers. These hoppers do not have developed wings and are unable to fly.

Grasshoppers cause some destruction every year, but become very destructive during outbreak years. Outbreaks are usually preceded by several years of hot dry summers and warm autumns. Dry weather increases nymph and adult populations and warm autumns allow grasshoppers more time to feed and lay eggs. Female grasshoppers have the potential to lay up to 400 eggs during a season.

Young grasshoppers are referred to as nymphs. They are similar to adults in general appearance, but are smaller and have wing pads instead of wings. There are usually five to six nymphal stages and the length of time from eggs to adult is 40-60 days.

Farmers and Ranchers should watch for grasshoppers early in the season and begin control measures while grasshoppers are in the nymphal stages.

There are a number of advantages of treating early:

- 1.) Fewer acres will have to be treated and less insecticide is necessary to obtain control
- 2.) Grasshoppers are killed before they have a chance to cause significant crop loss
- 3.) Smaller grasshoppers are more susceptible to insecticides than larger hoppers
- 4.) Early treatment before grasshoppers reach maturity prevents migration of the winged (flying) adult stage and egg laying, which may help reduce the grasshopper threat for the following year.

Copies of Texas Cooperative Extension cotton guides *Managing Insects in Cotton* as well as *Suggested Cotton Insecticides* are available in the office or can be e-mailed. If interested call the office or e-mail your request to amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu

On the Horizon

Lygus and Fleahopper:

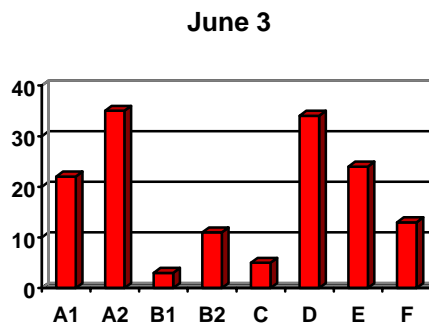
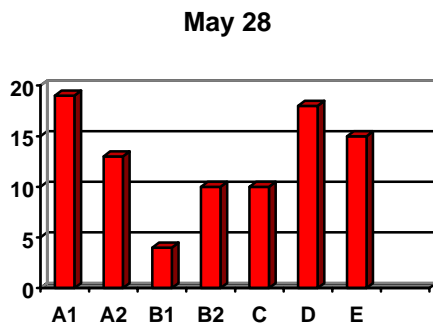
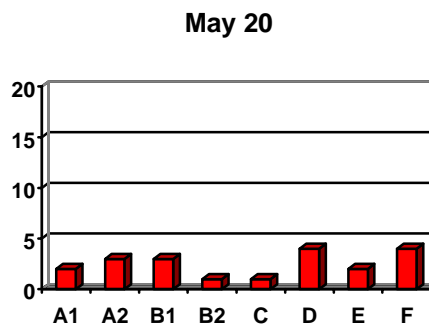
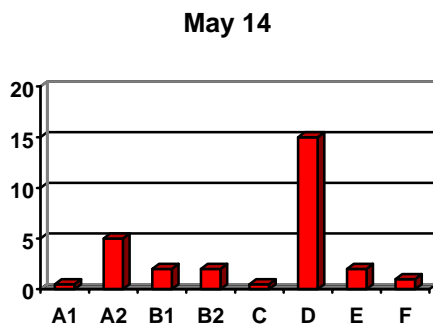
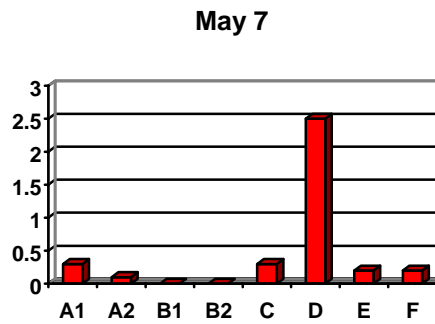
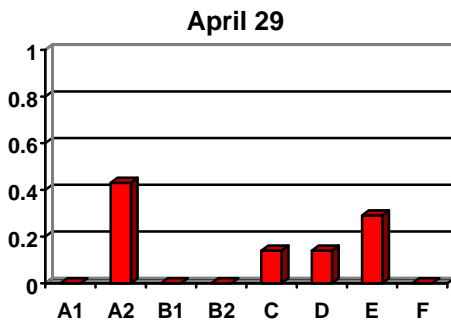
The wet spring gave rise to many weed hosts that have the potential to harbor a great number of different cotton insect pests. These insects include Lygus, fleahopper and Stink bugs. With cotton at the squaring stage in the South fleahopper and *Lygus* numbers will need to be monitored. In early April we conducted a survey of some of the common roadside weeds in Gaines County the numbers are provided on the chart below. The survey was conducted using a standard sweepnet. This table shows numbers of *Lygus* and Stink bug back in April and does not necessarily mean populations are still this high or that they will be a threat to the cotton crop.

County Location	# Sweeps	Weed Host	<i>Lygus</i>	Stink Bug
North	300	Mustard	60	2
NE	200	Mustard	93	7
NE	100	Alfalfa	1	0
NW	200	Mustard	32	3
NW	100	Alfalfa	1	0
South	200	Mustard	5	0
South	100	Alfalfa	0	0
SW	200	Mustard	17	6
SW	100	Alfalfa	0	0

Pink Bollworm:

Another pest we have been monitoring is the Pink Bollworm. There are traps set up at 8 different locations across the county. Locations were chosen based on last years data obtained from the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. Areas that experienced the greatest numbers were targeted and we have been monitoring them for early emergence. Pink Bollworm are not a concern at the present time, but these numbers may give us some perspective on the future. The following graphs show numbers of pink bollworm captured per day. Traps were set up on April 15 and there were no moths captured on the 22nd of April. Locations of the traps are as follows in each section of Gaines County.

A: NW B: N C: NE D: SW E: S F: SE



What We are Seeing in Peanuts

Thrips

Populations are currently at low to moderate levels in most fields locally. These increases and decreases in population levels are something that we will be seeing almost all year long. In peanuts, thrips feed in the terminal leaf clusters between the folds of the young leaflets. The damage they cause is dwarfing and malformation of the leaves. This type of injury normally occurs during the first month after plant emergence. It has been documented that in other peanut growing regions of Texas that thrips feeding damage does not significantly affect yields or grades. Young peanut plants (35 days or less) have repeatedly been shown to tolerate over 75% defoliation without yield reduction or delay in maturity.

Below ground we are seeing mostly healthy root systems with some fields beginning to show some nodules. An easy and quick way to see if the small nodules are healthy is to use your fingernail or a pocket knife to cut into the middle. You should see a red spot in the center and this means that the nodule is active. We are also seeing some root pruning which we have linked to pre emergent herbicide injury, but nothing too severe. As of now we are not seeing any type of insect activity on the root system.

Newsletter by E-Mail

To assist in reducing costs, if you have internet access please provide your e-mail address and we will e-mail the newsletter to you in the future. You can call the office or e-mail your request to me at: amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu Benefits of having your newsletter sent through e-mail are: pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, clickable links to other internet sites. If you are not sure how to use e-mail but have access to a computer give us a call and we will help you.

Business Acknowledgement

Since growers are no longer obligated to pay for this service, funding for the program was raised from donations by the people the producers do business with. It takes around \$15,000 dollars to run the program and that money goes towards postage, travel, and salary for interns who help with the scouting. We are still in need of funding so if you do not see someone on the list you think would be interested in donating please contact them or call our office so we might be able to.

The IPM staff would like to thank these businesses who donated to the program and encourage producers to support their business as they have supported the producers.

VIP

Baucum Insurance

Nolen Ag

Agrilliance

Ag Texas

Five Points Gin

Stateline Gin

UAP Southwest

Western Peanut Growers Association

AG Aero

State Farm

South Plains Implement

West Texas National Bank

Whittenburg Insurance

Moore-Haralson Agency

Special Thanks to our \$1000 Contributors

Ocho Gin

Oasis Gin

Tricounty Producers Co-op

*If for some reason a name was left off of this list or if your company would like to donate to the program please contact our office