
Gaines County Cotton/Peanut News

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Contents

- I. General Situation
- II. What's happening in the Cotton
- III. What we are seeing in Peanut
- IV. Upcoming Events
- V. Fun Fact
- VI. Acknowledgements

General Situation

The weather continues to aid in adding the finishing touches to our 2004 crop. Although we have been having the cool temperatures in the morning the crops seem to be making a speedy dash for the finish line. Cotton in the program is ranging from cutout to 5 nodes above cracked boll depending

on how it was managed and the variety. Peanuts are also maturing at a rapid pace with fields planning to be dug in a few weeks. The extended forecast is calling for temperatures in the 90s and lows in the 60s with slight chances of rain. The next hurdle for the cotton will be the timing of harvest aids so that we can get this crop out of the

field and decrease the chances of problems to occur. Dr. Randy Boman has released his harvest aid guide for 2004 along with the price list. They can be viewed by accessing the FOCUS on entomology newsletter <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/>, or clicking the following link and looking under "Whats New".
<http://lubbock.tamu.edu>

The peanut crop is looking excellent with most fields having been treated multiple times for disease. It has been a perfect year for diseases to grow and spread rapidly. This year has shown us just how important it is to be aware of happenings in the field and to know what to do and when to do it. The following diseases continue to be seen in program fields: early leafspot *Cercospora arachidicola*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Pythium spp*, Sclerotinia Blight (SCB), Southern Blight *Sclerotium rolfsii*, and *Botrytis*.

More information can be viewed in previous weeks of Focus on Entomology at:
<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/>

What's Happening in the Cotton

Lygus:

Fields that were planted timely (May) should be out of harms way while some of the later fields should continue to be monitored as *Lygus* can cause damage to bolls that have accumulated less than 350 heat units. **The economic threshold at this time of the season is 2 lygus bug adults or nymphs per three feet of row with less than acceptable fruit retention.** These thresholds are based on the drop cloth sampling method.

Cotton Bollworm:

Worm numbers continue to be non existent in program fields. After a boll has gained 450 heat units it is relatively safe from worm damage. It is also very difficult for a worm population to become established in cotton that has only larger bolls present.

***According to Dr. Leser, there has been a second wave of bollworm activity in the Southern Rolling Plains; this should not affect timely**

planted cotton but could affect later planted dryland cotton.

Cotton Aphid:

Numbers continue to be minimal (less than 10 per leaf) in all fields with the exception of those fields that have been treated for worms or pinkies. Aphid numbers in these fields average 48 per leaf. Aphids at this point are no longer a major concern in the way of yield but rather the sticky situation. **Treatments should be initiated when the field averages 50 aphids per leaf and if the population is continuing to climb.**

Pink Bollworm:

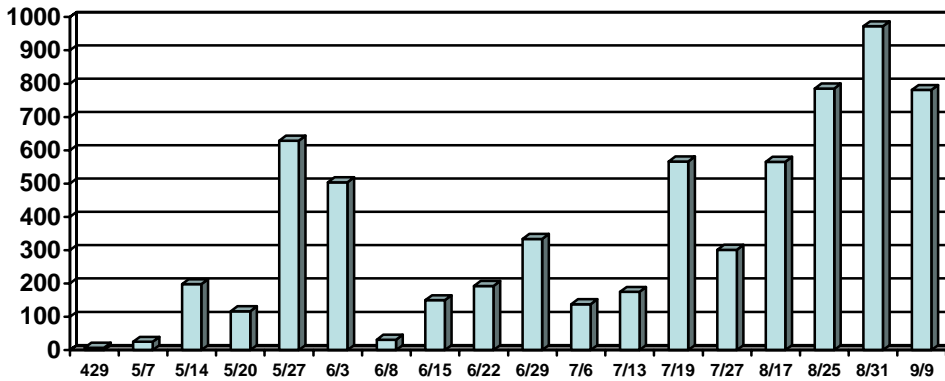
Numbers are from traps set on April 15 and have been run weekly since. Locations of the traps are as follows in each section of Gaines County.

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

| Trap | 4/29 | 5/7 | 5/14 | 5/20 | 5/27 | 6/3 | 6/8 | 6/15 | 6/22 | 6/29 |
|-------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| A1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 135 | 89 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| A2 | 3 | 1 | 36 | 20 | 93 | 138 | 8 | 55 | 47 | 121 |
| B1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 15 |
| B2 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 8 | 71 | 43 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| C | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 68 | 21 | 5 | 27 | 27 | 15 |
| D | 1 | 18 | 106 | 26 | 125 | 135 | 6 | 13 | 83 | 114 |
| E | 2 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 103 | 95 | 4 | 12 | 6 | 29 |
| F | 0 | 1 | 10 | 21 | * | 52 | 1 | 23 | 11 | 28 |
| Total | 7 | 25 | 198 | 117 | 629 | 504 | 31 | 150 | 193 | 334 |

| Trap | 7/6 | 7/13 | 7/19 | 7/27 | 8/17 | 8/25 | 8/31 | 9/9 |
|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| A1 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 14 | 47 | * | 158 | 90 |
| A2 | 53 | 64 | 184 | 57 | * | 28 | 41 | 14 |
| B1 | 13 | 12 | 36 | 14 | 96 | 108 | 12 | 9 |
| B2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 48 | 25 | 45 |
| C | 19 | 16 | 31 | 41 | 41 | 111 | 85 | 149 |
| D | 18 | 30 | 252 | 123 | 310 | 456 | 618 | 432 |
| E | 12 | 14 | 23 | 11 | 25 | 18 | 19 | 42 |
| F | 13 | 21 | 28 | 32 | 21 | 16 | 14 | * |
| Total | 138 | 175 | 566 | 301 | 565 | 785 | 972 | 781 |

The graph below depicts the total number of pink bollworm moths caught in all eight traps by week in Gaines County since trapping began.



The economic threshold for PBW is 10-15% infested bolls. The only sure way to find out what level of infestation you have is by cutting bolls and looking for **PBW** entries and larvae. To sample for **PBW** you need to collect and examine 40 to 50 small bolls per field. Bolls do not become safe from damage due to this pest until they reach **650** heat units (this is a fairly mature boll). **Bollgard cotton is 99% effective against this destructive little critter.**

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

What We are Seeing in Peanut

Diseases:

For information on these or any other peanut problem contact the office and I will be happy to assist you.



Sclerotinia Blight (SCB): This week we are still seeing SCB in some fields along with **Botrytis blight**.

Characteristics of SCB are white cotton like fluffs on the top of the ground near the leaf axils. This fluff will have a golden tint to it as compared to a gray tint which is characteristic of **Botrytis** blight. Both fungi have the characteristic stem shredding accompanied with many black irregularly shaped sclerotia. The end result is plant death and decreased yields. Different chemicals have activity on these diseases therefore it is critical to know what you are looking at. To differentiate between the two fungi a lab diagnosis is necessary.

Early Leafspot: there is a possibility of significant defoliation in fields if lack of spraying or poor timing has occurred.

Stay on a fungicide schedule in accordance with the label regarding HARVEST restrictions until the crop is finished this year. However, if your crop is thoroughly infected with these diseases, no amount of fungicides will help. So, please remember that fungicides are preventative and not curative in their mode of action.

Pictures of all diseases along with control and symptoms can be viewed at Dr. Chip Lee's site: <http://stephenville.tamu.edu/~clee/pdncr/>

Control measures should be taken as a preventative and not as a rescue.

Upcoming Events

Western Peanut Growers Farm Tour-**Sept 15**
Ag and Oil Day – **Sept 16**

Fun Fact

Two peanut farmers have been elected president of the USA - Thomas Jefferson and Jimmy Carter.

Acknowledgements

Funding for the IPM program is provided by donations from local agribusinesses. About \$15,000 dollars per year is required to run the program with money going towards postage, travel, and wages for scouts. We are still in need of funding so if you know someone 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 that donated to the program and encourage producers to support their business as they have supported the producers.

VIP

Baucum Insurance

Nolen Ag

Agriliance

Ag Texas

Five Points Gin

Stateline Gin

UAP Southwest

Western Peanut Growers Association

AG Aero

Farm Bureau

State Farm

South Plains Implement

West Texas National Bank

Whittenburg Insurance

Moore-Haralson Agency

Pioneer Gin

Wilco Peanuts

Eddins Walcher

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Ocho Gin

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Tricounty Producers Co-op

Newsletter by E-Mail

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pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, click-able links to other internet sites, and sooner access. 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.

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Western Gaines County 8/31

*For information on Hailed on Cotton contact my office or go to:

http://lubbock.tamu.edu/cotton/pdf/assessing_hail_damage_2003.pdf