

Plains Pest Management Newsletter

News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

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COTTON

Cotton ranges from 2 true leaves to 10 true leaves on the main stem. Most fields are now entering the squaring stage, with early plantings having 3 to 4 squares per plant.

Overall thrips have not been a major problem this year. Insecticides added to Roundup applications have helped to keep thrips populations below thresholds.

As fields are now entering squaring stage we can shift from thrips scouting to plant bug scouting. The two plant bugs with which we are concerned are cotton fleahoppers and Lygus bugs. Both feed on squares and cause them to be aborted from the plant. During early squaring it is very important to monitor percent square sets. Currently square sets are very good in fields inspected. During the first two weeks of squaring we generally like to maintain square sets above 85%, followed by 75% during the 3rd and 4th week of squaring. So far observations of plant bugs have been low, with an occasional Lygus bug encountered.

Pink bollworm moths were collected in five out of eight traps checked on June 13 in the Cotton Center area. Counts ranged from 1 to 4 moths for a one week period. So far no moths have been collected in Swisher Co. This is a new pest on the Texas High Plains and has been expanding its range over the last 3 to 4 years. In the past few years economic infestations of pink bollworms

have been centered around the Gaines County area. We will continue to monitor this new pest.

Boll weevil trapping continues this year by the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program. We are in the Northern High Plains Zone which has not had a weevil collected as of June 12, 2005. Without boll weevils in the picture early season pest management in cotton has become much easier.

A few cabbage loopers and beet armyworms continue to be found in area fields. If it stays hot and dry we may see an increase in beet armyworm populations.

Beneficials have been excellent. Crab spiders and minute pirate bugs are abundant. Also big eyed bugs have been fairly common.

Most cotton is now past the 4th true leaf stage and therefore is past the time for over the top Roundup applications. Salvage applications can be made after the 4th true leaf stage, but yield reduction may be expected. In recent tests at the Lubbock Research and Extension Center, applications over the top after the 4th true leaf have decreased lint yields 5 to 19% in 2 out of 3 years tested. Growers making late Roundup applications over the top, after the application window has passed, must decide if weed pressure will result in a greater loss of yield. If so, the late applications may be justified. When the new Roundup Ready Flex cotton varieties are available much of our yield loss potential from late applications should be alleviated.

CORN

Corn ranges from mid to late whorl. We have not had reports of fields tasseling yet, but we should not be far from this stage. With the hot temperatures all corn is currently under irrigation. Southwestern corn borer moths continue to be collected in area traps.

2005 Result Demonstrations

The following section is from our new Hale County Extension Agent, **Michael Dolle**. We also have another new CEA, **Andy Hart**, who is responsible for our youth programming. Please come by the Hale County Extension Office and meet our new staff.

2005 Result Demonstrations

Michael J. Dolle

*Hale Co. Ag & Natural Resources Extension
Agent*

Producers in Hale County have been very lucky this planting season, for the most part. We have received nice rains over most of the county. For the better part of the county, hail losses have been much less than some of our neighboring counties. We are off and running for the 2005 growing season in good shape.

This year, our Hale Agriculture Improvement Committee has helped me to put together five result demonstrations for producers to look at across the county. They are:

- An irrigated cotton variety trial with Mark True that has 12 Round Uptm ready varieties.
- The same varieties are planted with Lanny Carthel in a nonirrigated test.
- Scott Buchanan and Vista Grande Dairy have cooperated with us and have an ensilage corn test one mile north of the dairy. This trial has 20 corn hybrids and we will be pulling a sample at harvest of each to send off for feed value.

- For all of you who like to grow grain sorghum, there is a variety trial with Kevin Igo on the old Asgrow plant north of Plainview off of I-27. There are 29 hybrids and of those there are seven which are Tan Plant Colored Sorghums or Food Grade Sorghums. These are becoming widely used in poultry and swine production.
- And finally, at the Halfway Station, there is a demonstration on plant populations for forage and sorghum sudan hybrids by water treatments.

The cotton plot with Mark True is planted on the east side of FM 400 a ½ a mile north of FM 2883. This plot is planted in four row plots and is repeated four times across the field. The varieties planted are:

Beltwide 50
Paymaster 2266
Stoneville 3969
All-Tex Warrior
Fiber Max 989
Delta Pine 432
AFD 3511
Fiber Max 960
Stoneville 2448
Delta Pine 434
Delta Pine 444
All-Tex Magnum

These same varieties are planted with Lanny Carthel on 24th street in Plainview just north of Wal-Mart on the West side of I-27. If you have any questions, please call Michael at the Hale County Extension Office at 291-5267.

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