

Plains Pest Management Newsletter

News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

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Vol. 31, No. 7

July 24, 2003

COTTON

Cotton is on the road to recovery with many fields now entering bloom. A few fields have 2 blooms per plant and small bolls present. Plant mapping at early bloom can tell one a lot about their potential yield. Fields with 4 to 5 nodes above the 1st position white bloom can expect a shorter than normal bloom period and a reduced yield potential, unless the nodes above white flower can be maintained at this level by frequent irrigation such as with a center pivot. If a cotton field starts at early bloom with 8 to 9 nodes above white bloom then the yield potential will be high if adequate moisture is maintained. Many stripper varieties often come into bloom with 6 to 7 nodes above white bloom which is very good for a slightly above average yield potential. If nodes above white bloom can be maintained above the 6th node level for 3 to 4 weeks of the bloom period then very good yields can be expected. We generally say that cotton is reaching cut out when nodes above white bloom is 4 or less. Cotton is a very difficult crop to predict, but maybe when you count nodes above white bloom, some information can be gained and appropriate inputs can be determined.

Pheromone Trap Collections			
Species	Date	Average ¹	Range/Trap
Corn Ear Worm	7/22	129	0-496
Beet Armyworm	7/22	44	16-70
SW Corn Borer	7/22	123	2-346
¹ Average for a 4 day collection period			

Percent square sets remain high for nodes higher than the earlier weather damaged positions. Overall cotton fleahoppers and Lygus remain light. Cotton aphids continue to infest squares and a few leaves. Some honeydew has been noted on leaf surfaces, but overall aphids remain very light.

Cotton bollworm infestations have declined overall with infestations remaining below 5,000 eggs or larvae per acre. Currently our cotton bollworm trap collections are half those reported 10 days ago. Basically this means we are between cycles and should start to see an increase as emerging adults move from corn to cotton. Once cotton reaches the bloom stage it becomes much more attractive for oviposition; therefore we expect to see a gradual increase in egg lays. We may have some help to damper movement of bollworms (corn earworm) into cotton; since young sorghum and corn are very attractive for the corn earworm and we have a significant amount of these late planted crops this season.

CORN

Southwestern corn borer emergence is in full swing in the Cotton Center/Hale Center areas and egg lays are on the increase. Field observations made on Tuesday (7/22) in the Cotton Center area indicates that 80% of the eggs were freshly laid to 1 day old. Egg infestations averaged about 17% in these fields. In the Edmonson area significant emergence has just started; therefore it should be next week or later before thresholds are reached. The threshold for southwestern corn borer is when 20 to 25% of the plants are infested with eggs or small larvae. Eighty percent of the southwestern corn borer eggs are laid from 2 leaves above the ear leaf to 4 leaves below the ear leaf.

Most of the eggs are laid on the upper leaf surface. Newly laid eggs are white when first laid and after 24 hours develop three red parallel bands across the surface. The eggs of southwestern lay flat on the leaf surface and overlap each other slightly to give an appearance of fish scales on shingles on a roof. Individual eggs measure about 1 mm. by 1.5 mm. Eggs are typically found in masses and range from 2 to 5 eggs per mass. Late in the oviposition period single eggs are more commonly found.

Banks grass mites remain very light in general over the area. Only an occasional field has leaf damage. In fields where mites are on the increase damage averages about 20 to 30% in the lower 1/3 of the plant. So far fields have not been observed that have reached economic threshold.

Fall armyworm and corn earworm continue to feed in late planted whorl stage corn. Corn earworm infestations in post-silking corn continue, but many of the larvae have cut out of the ear to move into soil for pupation.

SORGHUM

Corn leaf aphids continue to be very common in whorl stage sorghum. Greenbugs are now being found in early planted sorghum, with populations expected to continue to increase. Early planted sorghum is now blooming and should be checked daily during the bloom period for sorghum midge.

Corn earworm and fall armyworm infestations remain very common in late planted sorghum. Damage from these pests in whorl stage sorghum can appear to be dramatic but rarely require treatment.

COTTON MARKETING MEETING

August 5, 2003

9:00 A.M.

Ollie Liner Center

Texas Cooperative Extension will be hosting his region wide meeting for farmers having cotton base acres. Dr. Car Anderson and Dr. Jackie Smith will discuss the current status of the cotton industry and counter cyclical payments.

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