

Plains Pest Management Newsletter

News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

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COTTON

For the third consecutive week rains fell over the area. Reports ranged from a few tenths to over 1.5 inches. Mepiquat products continues to be applied to area cotton which had not reached "cut out". Hail damage was reported this weekend west of Hale Center ranging down to Cone Elevator on I-27. Hail was also reported in the Abernathy area Saturday evening. Reports of other hail damage in the area came from Hockley, Parmer, Bailey, Castro, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn and Garza counties.

Cotton bollworm activity generally increased this past week. Egg counts were down and larval counts higher. Egg counts ranged from 0 to 22,000 per acre and were typically in the 3,000 to 8,000 per acre range. Larval counts ranged from 0 to 40,000 per acre. Fields with increased counts still had higher small larva counts than the medium and large categories. The largest change over the previous reporting period, was for medium larvae, with counts up to 17,000 per acre reported. The size classification for medium larvae is 1/4 to 1/2 inch in size. Any larvae over 1/2 inch is classified as large. Bollworm larvae grow rapidly and can reach full size (1 3/8") in 12 to 14 days. Larvae can reach 1/2 inch length in 5 days, under optimum conditions.

Pyrethroids for control of cotton bollworm are still the product of choice. Cost for using some of the cheaper products have ranged from \$1.92 to \$2.60 per acre.

Bollgard cottons will still have bollworm activity and one will occasionally find larvae up to 1/4 inch. Growers will need to be patient when checking Bt cotton and only become concerned if larvae are 1/2 inch or larger. When inspecting Bt cottons one will still see light feeding damage on

squares and small bolls. The larvae must feed on these plant parts until they ingest a lethal dose of the Bt toxin.

Cotton aphids continue to be found in all cotton inspected. Counts have ranged from 0 to 120 per leaf. Most counts are still in the 1 to 6 aphids per leaf range. Products suggested for control are Intruder®, Centric®, Trimax® and Bidrin®.

SORGHUM

Continue to scout for fall armyworm and corn earworms feeding in heads. The fall armyworm can feed on very dry kernels and sometimes causes damage well into the hard dough stage.

CORN

Most corn is drying rapidly and is not far off from harvest. Check moisture levels on a regular basis once corn enters the black tip stage.

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