



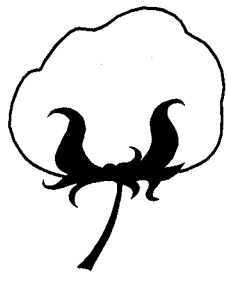
*The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter
 for the Row Crops in the Lower Rio Grande Valley*

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PEST CAST

John W. Norman, Jr.
 Extension Assistant

GENERAL SITUATION: Well, what do you know?? Rain!! About 2 inches of it if an average of the area rainfall amounts is calculated. Rain fell in a range from 1/2 to 4 inches. All of it helped. Insect activity increased.



Cotton was already responding to this week's rains. Of course, many area fields were seeing increased small boll shed. That is a common occurrence when cotton has gone into stress. More small bolls are likely to fall until the plant determines what it can hold and what it must drop to stay alive. The crop still looked very good this week and the rain will only help. About the only fields which did not need the rain were those that had just been irrigated and then received 4 or more inches of rain. But, overall the rain was more than welcomed.

Reports of a heavy bollworm/budworm egg lays were received this week. Overall, egg counts ranged from 0 to 40 or more per 100 plants based on the reports. The heaviest egg lays were in the mid Valley area. Worm counts ranged from 0 - 7 per 100 plants. This week's weather was good for plants and what is good for plants is likely to be good for pests insects as well. So, watch those fields for increased insect activity.

Boll weevils did not slow down this week, either. Punctured square count ranged from 0 to 16 per 100 plants. Counts will continue to go higher, especially following this week's rain. Those boll weevil grubs inside squares laying on the ground have ideal conditions in which to survive. Thus, a fast increase in adult weevil populations could be found and punctured square counts will rise from this point forward.



Most sorghum fields were maturing rapidly this week. The rains will only slightly delay the maturity. But, some sorghum plants were starting to lay down in the fields, primarily due to charcoal rot which was encouraged by the dry field conditions prior to this week. Likely, high winds among the thunderstorms will have pushed down some of the weaker stalks as well. Harvesting will commence in some fields as soon as drying conditions allow equipment entry into the fields.

Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.	Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.
2/15-----	1634	3/15-----	1395.5
3/01-----	1562	4/01-----	1176.5

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