



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

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# PEST CAST

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**GENERAL SITUATION:**

Scattered rain showers were recorded on Wednesday. Half of an inch of rain was reported in the flood way in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties north of the sugar mill, where as Willacy County saw no relief from the dry conditions. Overall there was not much relief from the drought in the whole LRGV. A good 2-3 inch rain is still needed in the next week or two to supply cotton fields with adequate moisture during the blooming period. One would hope to have a full soil water profile as the plant reaches peak bloom. Several cotton fields have 1/3 grown squares and will begin blooming shortly. On average blooming occurs at 924 accumulated heat units after planting.

Several sorghum fields are blooming across the LRGV.

Extension boll weevil trap captures are below. Again, the low trap captures of weevils is probably due to squaring cotton which can be found throughout the LRGV. Punctured squares were observed in scattered fields.

**Table 1. No. of Boll Weevils per trap per day.**

Field No.	Location	Week				
		4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25	5/2
1	Northeast Weslaco	3.04	1.17	2	0.38	0.45
2	East of Delta Lake	9.75	9.87	5.81	2.10	1.32
3	FM 490 & FM 2099	0.83	0.43	0.2	0.10	0
4	Harlingen Airport	7.5	2.97	2.55	0.78	0.67
5	SE of Rangerville	7.36	5.17	4.93	0.62	1.26

We have reached the point at which overwintered boll weevil sprays are no longer suggested. This will allow the beneficial populations to build up and aid in the control of mid-season pests.

Cotton fleahoppers remain an issue in some fields. Cotton fleahopper counts ranged from 0 to 70 per 100 plants. Fields that were treated in the last week accounted for most of the lower fleahopper counts seen. A few black fleahoppers were also seen in cotton fields in Willacy County. These are not known to be of economic importance. But it is important to note any changes in insect populations.

This week bollworm egg counts ranged from 0 to 1 per 100 plants, worms 0 to 6 per 100 plants, and adults 0 to 1 per 100 plants. A very few scatter fields were reported treated for Bollworms late this week.

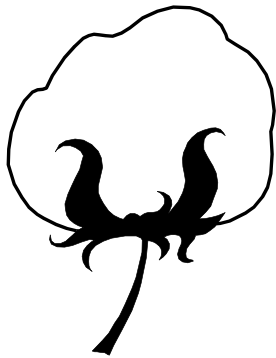
Beet armyworms continued to be found in fields throughout the LRGV. A few "hits" were observed in fields, with only 1 or 2 surviving larvae. Other reports have indicated that scattered fields have been treated for beet armyworms. Again these fields were characterized as high risk fields. Growers need be extract prc when scouting fields that have skippy, open canopies and drought stressed plants.

A few cotton square borers were also observed again this week. They did not appear to be causing any serious damage by themselves.

Aphid populations have appeared to have become non-existent in several fields.

Currently, cotton fields are being mapped and boll weevil traps (1 per field) are being deployed by The Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (BWEF). All cotton fields need to be reported to the BWEF. In order for this to be an effective year all fields need to be accounted for and receive diapause sprays this year. You can contact the Harlingen Office at (956) 412-3340, Kiro Guerra (Zone Supervisor) at (956)245-6756, or Joanne Long (Assistant Zone Supervisor) at (956)245-6767.

Cotton <u>H</u> e <u>a</u> t <u>U</u> n <u>i</u> t Accumulation Table			
Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.	Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.
2/15	927	3/15	677
3/01	796	4/01	483



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