



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:

Dry and windy weather conditions persisted throughout the week. Several cotton fields saw their first blooms this weeks. A majority of the grain sorghum is blooming as well.

BOLL WEEVIL:

Extension boll weevil trap counts reached zero or close to zero during the last week. Boll weevil activity has increased in fields. Reports have indicated that there has been an increase in weevil feeding and egg laying. Growers need to check their fields, especially the perimeters, for weevil activity. All punctured square counts were from overwintered weevils. There was one report of weevil grubs in squares this week. We may begin to see a few first generation boll weevil adults this next week.

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

Field No.	Location	Week					
		4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25	5/2	5/9
1	Northeast Weslaco	3.04	1.17	2	0.38	0.45	0.03
2	East of Delta Lake	9.75	9.87	5.81	2.10	1.32	0.17
3	FM 490 & FM 2099	0.83	0.43	0.2	0.10	0	0
4	Harlingen Airport	7.5	2.97	2.55	0.78	0.67	0.07
5	SE of Rangerville	7.36	5.17	4.93	0.62	1.26	0.07

BEET ARMYWORM:

At this time, Beet Armyworm (BAW) populations are not at a crisis level. However, BAW have been reported in more fields and growers need to be alert to potential problem fields. A majority of the fields with BAW infestations are located in Willacy County, where the prolonged hot dry weather conditions are contributing to an increase in the likelihood of BAW outbreaks. Growers and consultants have been challenged with the decision of whether treatable levels exist, and justification of insecticides applications knowing that no rain is forecasted in the near future. "Hits" (evidence of BAW activity) were also reported in irrigated cotton fields. In both dryland and irrigated production 20,000 BAW larvae per acre is recommend as the threshold when leaf feeding is the primary damage. Once fruit feeding occurs the threshold lowers to the Heliothin (bollworm and tobacco budworm) threshold of 6 to 10 larvae per 100 plants. Fields that have received repeated insecticide applications for any pest(s) need to be monitored closely, as this could lead to future problems with BAW. Fields should be scouted and all parasites and predators should be taken into account. Natural enemies can have a key role in suppressing BAW populations. Pupae (small, white, fuzzy and oblong) of an effective parasite, *Cotesia marginiventris* were found in fields this week. Crab spiders were also seen feeding on larvae of the BAW. Insecticides that are easier on beneficials are suggested.

BOLLWORMS:

This week bollworm larvae ranged from 0 to 11 per 100 plants, adults 0 to 1 per 100 plants, and worm damaged squares ranged from 0 to 12 per 100 plants. A very few scatter fields were reported as being treated for Bollworms this week.

OTHER PESTS:

Fleahopper counts were down this week. Counts ranged from 0 to 2 per 100 plants.

Cabbage loopers are still out there, but lower numbers and less damage have been seen.

Very light populations of Silverleaf Whitefly have been noted in scattered fields. Again this is a pest in which populations need to be monitored for changes.

Aphid populations remain very light. Only individual spots within fields have medium populations.

Beneficial insects of note this week were lady beetles, parasitic wasps, and minute pirate bugs.

Cotton <u>H</u> eat <u>U</u> nit Accumulation Table			
Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.	Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.
2/15	1077	3/15	827
3/01	946	4/01	633

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