

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

2401 East Highway 83
 Weslaco, Texas 78596
 Telephone (956) 968-5581
 Fax (956) 969-5639

WebSite: <http://entowww.tamu.edu>
 TPMA Newsletter Website: www.tpma.org
 District 12 Website: <http://agfacts.tamu.edu/D12>

PEST CAST

Manda Cattaneo
 Extension Agent - IPM

GENERAL SITUATION: Hot, humid days continued to dominate the weather situation in the LRGV. Cracked bolls were reported this week in some very early planted fields and a few drought stressed fields (see fig. 1). The first bale of cotton was harvested on Wednesday of this week.



Fig. 1 - Open bolls in an early planted field.

The **Boll Weevil Eradication Program (BWEPE)** will begin spraying approximately 10 fields next week. Individual fields will be sprayed when the field reaches 10% cracked boll. Once 50% of the fields in a work unit have reached 10% cracked boll, the whole work unit will be treated. The fields will be sprayed weekly with Malathion ULV until cotton is destroyed or no longer hostable. Growers need to be in contact with the work unit supervisors in order to make sure that the BWEPE has the correct phone number(s) to call regarding when their individual fields will be sprayed.

Please refer to the 2005 LRGV Boll Weevil Eradication Program Quick Reference Guide provided by the Cotton and Grain Producers for BWEPE phone numbers and further information. Guides are available at several gins, coops, the Weslaco Texas Cooperative Extension Office, and various other locations.

The **LRGV Boll Weevil Eradication Program** has provided the following trapping information from the three district offices (Harlingen, Edinburg, and Raymondville) in the LRGV Zone.

Boll Weevil Trapping Information for the Week Ending on 6/10/05			
	Harlingen	Edinburg	Raymondville
Total BW Captured	1,912	803	922
Total Traps Inspected	1,639	1,086	1,706
Avg BW / Trap Inspected	1.17	0.74	0.54



Fig. 2 - Newly emerged boll weevil feeding on the pollen of a cotton bloom.

Extension Boll Weevil trap counts (see last page) had a slight increase. Boll weevil activity in fields continued to expand into new areas. Live adult weevils ranged from 0 to 20 per 100 plants. Punctured squares ranged from 0 to 15 in most fields, with a few fields having 80% punctured squares. The percentage of punctured squares went up in fields where the number of squares has gone down because of maturing plants. In other fields, red weevils (newly emerged) were observed in blooms this week (see Fig. 2). Yet in other fields that have completed the

blooming stage, weevil activity has decreased. However, soft green bolls are still susceptible to boll weevil punctures. Continued scouting and control is needed to protect the maturing bolls.

Silverleaf whitefly and cotton aphids in light numbers were observed and reported in fields areas that have received weekly or regular insecticide treatments for boll weevils. Scouting of these areas will determine if economic injury levels have been reached.

Beneficial insects seemed to be helping to keep aphid and whitefly populations low. Beneficials observed this week were several ladybird beetle species, assassin bugs, spiders, minute pirate bugs, and lacewings. These beneficials could be moving from field areas that have not been treated to field areas which have been treated. Beneficials may also be moving from maturing and harvested grain sorghum fields in close proximity to sprayed cotton.

Reports of very few fields being treated for **cotton fleahoppers** were received this week. Fleahoppers were observed at 2-3 per square in some fields.

Beet armyworm populations continue to be low in most areas. BAW larvae ranged from 0 to 1 larvae per 100 plants. One newly laid BAW egg mass was observed this week.

A report of a few fields in southern Cameron county being treated for fall armyworms and beet armyworms was received late last week. These fields were sprayed and no new reports were received this week.

Bollworm/budworm activity appears to have decreased this week. Bollworm eggs ranged from 0 to 5 per 100 plants, larvae 0 to 2 per 100 plants, worm damaged squares ranged from 0 to 5 per 100 plants, and bollworm moths 0 to 2 per field.

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	1917	3/15	1667
3/01	1787	4/01	1473

Extension Boll Weevil Traps - No. of Boll Weevils per trap per day.												
Fld No.	Location	Week										
		4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/23	5/30	5/6	5/13
1	Northeast Weslaco	3.04	1.17	2	0.38	0.45	0.03	0.14	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.81
2	East of Delta Lake	9.75	9.87	5.81	2.10	1.32	0.17	0.6	0.17	0.23	0.06	0.11
3	FM 490 & FM 2099	0.83	0.43	0.2	0.10	0	0	0.17	0.03	0.19	0	0.14
4	Harlingen Airport	7.5	2.97	2.55	0.78	0.67	0.07	0.14	0.16	0.38	0.10	0.14
5	SE of Rangerville	7.36	5.17	4.93	0.62	1.26	0.07	0.28	0.07	0.2	0.06	1.64

 THE INFORMATION GIVEN HEREIN IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. REFERENCES TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS OR TRADE NAMES ARE MADE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NO DISCRIMINATION IS INTENDED AND NO ENDORSEMENT BY THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IS IMPLIED.

