

*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: The hot dry conditions have continued to persist this week. Grain sorghum harvesting is well underway. A majority of the dryland and a few irrigated cotton fields had some cracked bolls this week (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Cracked bolls in a dryland cotton field.

The **Boll Weevil Eradication Program (BWEP)** began spraying a handful of fields this week. The BWEP is monitoring fields closely to determine when a field reaches 10% cracked boll. With the heat units accumulating at a rapid pace, several fields in the dryland area are expected to reach 10% cracked boll in the next couple of weeks.

A 2% discount is available if the Boll Weevil Eradication Program assessment (\$14 per dryland acre and \$28 per irrigated land acre) is paid in full by June 30, 2005. Growers who forget to deduct the discount or don't wish to figure it, but who pay early, will receive a credit or refund on their account.

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 6/17/05			
	Harlingen	Edinburg	Raymondville
Total BW Captured	5,566	1,387	1,038
Total Traps Inspected	1,664	1,108	1,741
Avg BW / Trap Inspected	3.35	1.25	0.60
Avg BAW Moths / Trap	26.8	36.5	34.8

Boll weevil pressure is seen in most fields. The few squares remaining in the dryland cotton fields observed this week had boll weevil punctures or were feed on by boll weevils. Boll weevil punctured squares range 0 to 28 per 100 plants in irrigated cotton fields. Boll weevil punctured soft bolls were also observed in a scattered fields this week. Continual treatment of fields will help to alleviate weevil pressure on squares and maturing bolls.

The Extension boll weevil trap counts remain low this week (see last page).

Bollworm/budworm egg counts ranged from 0 to 2 per 100 plants, larvae counts ranged from 0 to 6, and damaged squares ranged from 0 to 8.

Silverleaf whitefly and cotton aphid populations remain below economical damaging levels in fields observed this week. An increase in the number of insecticide sprays could reduce the number of beneficial insects, present in cotton fields, that are keeping these populations under control. Scouting of fields will help to monitor the status of whitefly and aphid populations.

Beet armyworm egg masses were observed in a few fields this week. There was a higher presence of egg masses in southern Cameron county. In one field, 75% of the egg masses observed, appeared to be destroyed by insecticides (Fig. 2), predators (Fig. 3) or dessication. Reports of a few other fields being treated for BAW were received this week.



Fig. 2 - BAW egg mass destroyed by insecticides.



Fig. 3 - BAW egg mass destroyed by a predator.



Fig. 4 - Spidermite damage on a cotton leaf.

Spidermites were observed in scattered fields this week, with a few field populations at treatable levels (Fig. 4). Heavy spidermite populations need to be controlled in order to prevent premature defoliation of cotton plants. Spidermites are usually more prevalent along dry dusty roads. If insecticide sprays are warranted, coverage is an important factor to consider. The spidermites live on the underside of leaves, and therefore coverage of the underside of the leaves is needed.

Cotton <u>H</u> e <u>at</u> <u>U</u> n <u>i</u> t Accumulation Table			
Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.	Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.
2/15	2091	3/15	1841
3/01	1960	4/01	1647

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	6/6	6/13	6/20
1	Northeast Weslaco	3.04	1.17	2	0.38	0.45	0.03	0.14	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.81	0.11
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	0.07
3	FM 490 & FM 2099	0.83	0.43	0.2	0.10	0	0	0.17	0.03	0.19	0	0.14	0.19
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	0.48
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	0.17

 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.

