



*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:** A hot and dry week was the weather situation this week. Most area fields dried rapidly following the heavy rains of two weeks ago. Grain harvest will be wrapping up shortly and cotton defoliation began. Insect activity in cotton was increasing in later maturing fields.



Most fields of cotton had hard green bolls near the tops of the plants and were offering very little support for insects. However, some fields still needed another two weeks to finish their boll sets in order to complete the crop. Such fields were the ones with the greatest threat from increasing boll weevil damage. Defoliation was on going and will increase considerably next week. Regrowth and new squares were steadily increasing in most fields because soil moisture was abundant.

Boll weevils were raging in most immature fields and in otherwise mature fields with remaining squares and blooms this week. Some fields will need protection from weevils and worms for at least another two weeks. Punctured square and small boll counts ranged from 15 to near 100 per 100 plants. Continuous and short interval sprayings were the only way to stay near even with the heavy weevil population. Many fields treated on one day had new red weevils taking on squares and small bolls the next day. Some producers were opting to apply glyphosate herbicide (Round Up, etc.) to try to eliminate the immature fruit which would not add to the yield and was providing food for weevils. Additionally, some producers were making light defoliation applications to stop further fruit production. And of course, some were conducting defoliation at full rates because the crop was ready.

Tobacco budworms and bollworms still were in fields this week, but in low numbers. Some larvae of both species comprised worm counts which ranged from 0 to 5 per 100 plants.

Other than the rampaging weevil situation, everything was "rosy" this week. The crop looked very good and was getting better as far as boll maturation was concerned. Hope for a good top crop in later maturing fields was dampened by the weevil situation, but overall, the majority of the cotton crop has a good boll set and should produce a good yield, weather permitting. We will just have to wait and see what the predicted rains for this coming weekend and next week amount to determine how much, if any, damage is incurred by the crop.

Since so much of the area crop is now or shortly will be in the hands of the defoliators and nothing new in insect activity can be reported, this will be the last regular *Pest Cast* for this season. There likely will be special editions of this newsletter between now and November to bring you news of interest regarding this and next season's cotton crop. Hopefully, this season was not a complete bust for anyone and that next year will be even better.

Planting Dates	Heat Accum. H.U.	Planting Dates	Accum. H.U.
2/15-----	2348.5	3/15-----	2110
3/01-----	2276.5	4/01-----	1891

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