



*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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**Cotton Variety and Defoliation field day has been cancelled. We regret missing this opportunity to visit with you about defoliation trials and the new varieties. The results from the variety trail and defoliation trails will be available later this summer.**

**Aftermath of Hurricane Emily:**

Hurricane Emily left behind 2 to 9 inches of rain in the LRGV, with the majority of the area receiving 3 1/2 to 4 inches. Depending on the crop stage, the variety, and the location, cotton on the ground ranged from 1% to 50%. The combination of strong winds and rain caused strung-out cotton in most fields. Estimations of quantity and quality loss have varying ranges. We will not know the outcome until harvesting is able to resume. Additional rain is expected in the next couple of days.



Regrowth has been observed in defoliated and shredded fields. Growers may need to re-defoliate or change the combinations of chemicals to defoliate the regrowth. Information regarding chemical defoliation will be sent out by the Cotton and Grain Producers of the LRGV and TCE within the next week.

**Stalk destruction** is encouraged, weather permitting, as soon after harvest as possible. This will destroy all hostable fruit that boll weevil will reproduce and feed on. This will also reduce the number of sprays by the LRGV Boll Weevil Eradication Program. LRGV producers will receive a \$2.00 per acre credit if stalks are destroyed by August 18, 2005.

Reported **yields** prior to Hurricane Emily have ranged from 3/4 of a bale to over 1 1/2 bales. The majority of the harvested fields were located in Willacy County. An additional large number of fields have been harvested in Cameron County.

The **Silverleaf Whitefly** populations should be reduced due to the heavy rains throughout the valley. However, we encourage growers to continue checking fields that are late maturing for all pests.

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