

HUB OF THE PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

A newsletter about integrated pest management for growers in Lubbock, County

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CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

Most of the program fields are starting to square with adequate soil moisture present within the profile. Square sets are averaging 95 percent with few insect problems to report. The number one pest to date would have to be high winds and blowing sand associated with area thunderstorms.

WHAT THE SCOUTS ARE FINDING

The scouts are finding primarily thrips in all program fields but in relatively low numbers. The frequent thunderstorms and high winds have kept this pest in check. Low numbers of cotton fleahoppers and lygus are being found in area fields that are adjacent to pastures and weedy areas. Weed pressure is high in many program fields and cultivation and post directed applications will be needed in the coming weeks. Most of the program fields are sitting at 7 to 8 true leaves and are relatively safe from thrips.

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK: WHAT TO REPLANT?

Most of the conversations that I have had over the past few days have dealt with replant decisions. As I have already stated, most of the producers have elected

to go back with cotton due to a myriad of economic reasons but mostly due to herbicide restrictions. The following is two articles written by Randy Bowman and Calvin Trostle discussing replant cotton variety selection and grain sorghum selection.

COTTON FLEAHOPPER MONITORING AND CONTROL STRATEGIES

Scouting for this pest can be difficult at best. The adults will fly readily when disturbed so care must be taken when approaching the plants. Do not cast a shadow on the plant and gently handle the plant while inspecting for this pest. The immatures are fairly easy to spot in the terminal if you have excellent to good eyesight. The adults are about 1/8" in length and are pale green in color and the immatures resemble the adults but are minute and somewhat clear until they begin to feed.

During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 85 percent square set. Starting with the third week of squaring up to first bloom, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 75 percent square set.

I think it would be pertinent for me to include a little sage advice when using these thresholds. First and foremost, these thresholds are just a starting point and are not set in stone. For example, if you are sitting at 95% square set

and you have a rapidly increasing number of fleahoppers ,say, a total of 40 adult fleahoppers per 100 terminals that appeared “over night” in your field, then I would be inclined to treat. If you elect not to treat, then you need to be scouting that field every two to three days keeping a close watch on your square set. If you are scouting every seven days and elect not to treat then your square set can easily drop to less than 60%.

Chronic infestations of fleahoppers can be a headache as well. Do not sit back and let your square set drop below 70% just because your population did not reach 20-30 per 100 terminals. If you consistently have 10 to 15 fleahoppers per 100 terminals with the presence of blasted squares for a period of two weeks then at sometime you have to treat the field and do so before you get below 70% square set. In addition, and I know this sounds like heresy, but do not let your square set drop below 70% due to this pest because you were trying to conserve your beneficial insects. Your main goal is to produce fruit on these plants and not beneficial insects. A few more thoughts on this subject deal with irrigation or the lack thereof. If you are only able to irrigate your cotton once or twice during bloom then I would not treat for this pest unless your square set drops below 50%. I have conducted research on how a cotton plant compensates for fruit loss and am relatively comfortable in letting square sets drop below 50% under marginal irrigation.

Suggested Insecticides for control of cotton fleahoppers and Lygus.

Insecticide	Formulated amount per acre	
	Fleahopper	Lygus
Address® 75S	4 - 5.33 oz.	10.66 - 21.33 oz
Address® 90S	3.34 - 4 oz	9 - 17.77
Orthene® 90S	3.34 - 4 oz	9 - 17.77
Orthene® 97	3.10 - 3.71 oz	8 - 16 oz
Capture® 2E	----	2.6 - 6.4 oz
Baythroid® 2E	----	1.6 - 2.6 oz
Leverage® 2.7SE	----	3.75 oz
Karate® 1E	----	2.56 - 3.84 oz
Karate® 2.08 CS	----	1.28 - 1.92 oz
Ammo® 2.5 E	----	2 - 5 oz
Decis® 1.5 E	----	1.11 - 1.62 oz
Sevin® 80S	0.6 - 1.25 lbs	----

Lorsban® 4E	6 - 16 oz	----
Bidrin® 8E	0.8 - 3.2 oz	8 oz
Dimate® 4E	4 - 8 oz	8 oz
Dimethoate® 2.67E	5.3 - 10.5 oz	10.7 oz
Dimethoate® 4E	4 - 8 oz	8 oz
Dimethoate® 5E	3.2 - 6.4 oz	6.4 oz
Asana XL® 0.66E	----	5.8 - 9.6 oz
Provado® 1.6F	3.75 oz	3.75 oz
Trimax 4F	1.5 oz	
Steward® 1.25SC	9.2 - 11.3 oz	----
Lannate® 2.4LV	6 - 12 oz	0.75 pt
Methyl Parathion 4E	3.2 oz	1 - 2 pts
Vydate® 2L	1 pt	1 pt
Vydate® 3.77 C-LV	8.5 oz	12.7 - 34.0oz
Metasystox - R® 2E	1 pt	----
Parathion 8E	----	8 - 16 oz
Scout®X-tra 0.9E	----	2.28 - 2.84 oz
Fury® 1.5 E	----	2.99 - 4.26 oz

The use of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides may increase cotton aphid numbers

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