

# HUB OF THE PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

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## *IN THIS ISSUE:*

- \* CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS
- \* WHAT THE SCOUTS ARE FINDING
- \* COTTON PLANT MAPPING AT EARLY BLOOM-

### CURRENT CROP CONDITIONS

Many of the program fields are starting to bloom with few pest problems to report. Many of the area producers are either irrigating or are starting to irrigate. Based on the PET Network, blooming cotton in our area is using 0.3 inches of water per day or 2.1 inches per week. Most of the area crop went into bloom at 8 to 9 nodes above first position white bloom which basically tells me that these plants have quite a bit of "horsepower" and the yield potential is excellent. The question of the week seems to revolve around mepiquat chloride applications to reduce plant height in cotton. Basically, if your cotton enters the bloom stage at nine or more nodes above white bloom and you have adequate water at your disposal, then I would apply eight to ten ounces of mepiquat chloride or a similar product to keep the cotton between 28 and 32 inches tall. What makes me a little nervous is the producer who does not have adequate irrigation but has cotton entering the bloom stage at nine nodes due to the rain that we have been receiving. If you feel that it is going to continue to rain, then by all means make your mepiquat chloride application. If you feel that the rain is going to stop and you can only irrigate your cotton two times then do not spend money on this application. I would like to

mention a few other points about the use of these products. Mepiquat chloride in most instances will not increase yield. I will guarantee that they will reduce plant height if applied correctly. Two ounces of these products will not do anything but waste your time, money and effort. Applying 200 units of nitrogen during the third week of bloom with adequate irrigation will cancel an eight ounce application and cause you to go "off label" in order to keep your plant height down. And, while I am at it, feel free to blame me in October for either not recommending or recommending these mepiquat chloride applications. It is very easy in October to know whether we needed or did not need these applications and I will be happy to be the scape goat for not knowing how much rain we will receive for the remainder of the growing season.

### WHAT THE SCOUTS ARE FINDING

The scouts are finding little if anything in the program fields. **Bollworms** eggs and a few larvae are being found in most program fields on the East side of Lubbock County with egg numbers ranging from 1000 to 8000 per acre and larvae ranging from zero to 2000 per acre. I think the beneficial populations are doing their job to restrict this pest below threshold numbers. **Lygus** bugs are still being found in low numbers in most program fields and we are starting to find nymphs in Eastern Lubbock County. **Cotton aphids** are still being found in the terminal of late planted cotton this week, but the beneficial insects will take care of this pest.

## COTTON PLANT MAPPING AT EARLY BLOOM (What's Your Cotton Field Telling You ?)

By Mark Brown, CEA-Agriculture

Does your cotton field have a story tell? I once heard that the early-bloom cotton growth stage can be referred to as the "management moment" because decisions made at this stage can still positively impact yield potential.

Cotton plant monitoring (or plant mapping) provides several indicators to determine whether your cotton is on track, stressed, or too growthy. These indicators will give you a good idea of the plant vigor or "horsepower" of your cotton crop. The indicators provided below are primarily based on stripper varieties. Some flexibility may be needed when dealing with picker backgrounds, although the indicators are still a good rule-of-thumb.

\* **Height to Node Ratio** (Height in inches divided by number of nodes): <1 = stress, 1 to 1.25 = optimum, >1.5 may indicate need for growth regulator.

\* **NAWF** (Number of nodes above 1<sup>st</sup> position white flower at early bloom): 7 to 8 = optimum, 9 to 10 = too vegetative, 5 to 6 = limited yield potential, < 5 = imminent danger of pre-mature cut-out.

\* **Internode length** between nodes 4 and 5 down from the terminal: > 2 inches - vegetative.

One of the best things a cotton producer can apply to his crop is his own shadow. Step out into your field and see what your cotton is telling you.

## Suggested Insecticides for control of bollworms

Insecticide	Formulated amount per acre
Capture® 2 E *	2.6 - 6.4 oz
Baythroid ® 2 E *	1.6 - 3.2 oz
Leverage ® 2.7 SE *	3.75 oz
Karate ® 2.08 CS *	1.6 - 2.56 oz
Ammo ® 2.5 E *	2 - 5 oz
Decis ® 1.5 E *	1.62 - 2.56 oz
Asana XL ® 0.66 E *	5.8 - 9.6 oz
Steward ® 1.25 SC	9.2 - 11.3
Lannate ® 2.4 LV	1.5 pts
Methyl Parathion (4E)	2.5 - 4 pts
Curacron ® 8 E	8 - 16 oz
Tracer ® 4 SC	2.14 - 2.9 oz
Larvin® 3.2 F	1.5 - 2.25 pts
Scout® X-tra 0.9 E *	2.56 - 3.37 oz
Fury ® 1.5 E *	2.82 - 3.83 oz

\* The synthetic pyrethroid insecticides recommended for control of bollworms also will control boll weevil.

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