

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

**NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR
PRODUCERS IN RUNNELS-TOM GREEN COUNTIES**

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**PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS
NEWSLETTER RENEWAL**



For those of you who have an asterisk * by your name on the envelope, this will be your last newsletter. You can still sign up for the Pest Management News newsletter. The \$10 subscription fee is to cover the cost of postage. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter during 2004, please send \$10.00 to **“Pest Management News,” 613 Hutchins Ave., Room 302, Ballinger, Tx 76821, payable to “Pest Management News”**.



SMALL GRAIN



The wheat crop has come a long way the past three weeks. In the past several newsletters, I have discussed Hessian flies and leaf rust in wheat extensively so there will not be much discussion on these subjects today. Hessian fly infestations are widespread through Runnels, Tom Green and Concho counties. Some fields have been zeroed out and many others will take some yield loss. Our management strategies will need to change somewhat prior to planting our 2004-2005 wheat crop. Leaf rust hit a couple of weeks ago and has really hurt some wheat fields across the area. Some fields were treated and the fungicides seem to be working well in keeping leaf damage to a minimum. Making these treatment decisions are tough especially not knowing how the Hessian fly damage is going to affect yield. In many cases, your just trading dollars.

Looking on a more positive side, we have some of the prettiest wheat I have seen in years. There is some dryland wheat fields around that could easily go over 40 bushels per acre if growing conditions continue as they are now.



GRAIN SORGHUM



Much of the sorghum has been planted and is coming up to a stand. Planted acres are definitely up this year. Producers are encouraged to monitor sorghum fields regularly for greenbugs. Greenbugs can be a pest during the seedling stage. Infestations can be detected by the appearance of reddish leaf spots caused by the toxin greenbugs inject into the plant. Damaged leaves begin to turn yellow then brown and die. Damage at the seedling stage can result in stand loss so keep an eye out. Economic threshold from emergence to about 6" tall is reached when 20% of the plants show signs of damage (yellowing) with greenbugs present on the plants.

You should be in good shape if you used Gaucho® as a seed treatment, and if not, Dimethoate or Lorsban® 4 E does a good job controlling greenbugs. There are several other insecticides labeled for greenbugs and grain sorghum as well.

Several producers have asked questions about sorghum fertility needs. A general rule of thumb to go by is 2 lbs. Nitrogen per 100 lbs. of estimated yield. So, if your estimated yield goal was 2,000 lbs. per acre, you would need to have 40 lbs. of Nitrogen available. Our soils have high amounts of phosphorus and adequate amounts of potassium for dryland sorghum production. We do get into some iron deficiencies sometimes especially in the higher ph soils. Also remember 2,4 D and/or Dicamba can damage sorghum if applied too late. Hormone herbicides applied after panicle differentiation can cause sterilization or blasting of the heads. So follow label instructions.



COTTON



Round Up Ready® or Liberty Link® Technology

Technology is moving so rapidly that it's hard to keep up. Liberty Link® is on the market now and Round Up Ready® Flex System will be out in "2006". With the Round Up Ready® Flex System, you will be able to apply glyphosate over the top season long. There are pro's and con's, advantages and disadvantages to each of the systems. I will briefly discuss each system.

Round Up Ready® System

Advantages:

- it has a broad spectrum on broadleaves and grasses
- you have a wide choice of cotton varieties to choose from
- its effective on large weeds
- good crop tolerance when applied within the window

Disadvantages:

- limited post window
- controlling volunteer RR cotton
- costs of technology continues to increase

Liberty Link® System

Advantages:

- broad spectrum non-selective contact herbicide
- controls 24 grasses, 68 broadleaves
- fast acting and less forgiving

Disadvantages:

- weed size important (2-3 inches tall)
- weed health important (actively growing)
- label recommends 15-20 gallons solution per acre (10-15 gallons absolute minimum)

As one can see, you have lots of choices.

Cotton planting is just around the corner. Remember to burndown the weeds in the con-till fields at least 30 days prior to planting to help reduce the incidence of wireworms and cutworms. We are monitoring black cutworm adult populations using pheromone traps in an attempt to catch any potential problems early.

Early rain showers may have been a blessing for folks in the Vancourt area where pink bollworm infestations were so high last fall. Heavy rain showers or spring irrigations (furrow irrigation) cause pink bollworms to emerge early, increasing their suicidal emergence. We should have a good suicidal emergence.

Producers concerned with pink bollworm infestations this year should consider one of the Bollgard® cotton varieties in their management scheme. They provide over 99% control of pink bollworm with the added benefit of controlling other caterpillar pests. **Controlling pinkies in-season is very difficult.** We will be monitoring the Vancourt area using pheromone traps this growing season. I may need some volunteers to help monitor the traps once we have them up.

Remember that the minimum soil temperature for planting cotton is a ten day average of 65° F at an 8" soil depth (take temperature @ 8:00 a.m.). When soil temperatures are 65° to 70° F, the cottonseed germinates and emerges quicker which helps reduce the amount of time emerging seedlings are exposed to soil diseases. If cotton is planted at the minimum soil temperature and then its watered or gets rained on, you will probably have a reduction in the final plant stand. The health of the crop will certainly be affected.

Weather Information

We have two Weather Stations now. One in Tom Green County and one in Runnels County. I will start giving you weekly ET, max. & min. air temp., soil temp., precipitation, DD60's, etc. for each county. The Runnels County Weather Station will go on line this week hopefully.

County Runnels BLACK CUTWORM TRAPS

Date	Total BCW trapped	Average Daily # trapped	Date	Total BCW trapped	Average Daily # trapped	Date	Total BCW trapped	Average Daily # trapped
#1 Olfen FM 1678			#2 FM 2887			#3 Hwy 83		
4/22	2	.33	4/22	1	.17	4/22	1	.17

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