

# **PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS**

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

Richard Minzenmayer  
Extension Agent-IPM  
613 Hutchins Ave., Room 302  
Ballinger, Tx 76821  
Phone (325) 365-5212 Fax (365) 365-5212  
TPMA Website: <http://www.tpma.org>

May 27, 2004  
Vol. XVII No.06  
E-mail: [r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu](mailto:r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu)  
Website: <http://ipm.tamu.edu>  
Mobile (325) 365-1292



## GENERAL SITUATION



Well just about the time everyone thinks the drought is over, “what happens?” Hot, dry, windy conditions return. A good rainfall event is needed. On the news, people all over the country are receiving more rain than ever. Fields are flooded, homes are destroyed by flooding and our fields are dry and at the lake you can literally throw a rock across and hit the other side. But it will get better.

Wheat harvest has begun and yields are generally well above average. A number of fields North of Ballinger could easily go over the 55-60 bushel/acre mark. Bushel weights are coming in at 62-63 lbs. Prices right now are around \$3.70 per bushel. Some producers have commented that lodging from hessian flies is evident in many fields.

Cotton planting has slowed down this week primarily due to hot windy, dry conditions. Most of the irrigated is planted and much of it is up to a stand. Dryland producers will have to wait for rain before cotton planting can occur for most areas. Cotton that has emerged needs to be monitored for thrips presence and damage. Grasshopper nymphs can also be found in some areas coming out of pastures and road ditches so be on the look out.



## WHEAT



As producers begin to harvest their grain, they should take mental notes as to which wheat fields are most heavily damaged by hessian fly so steps can be taken to minimize damage next year. Weak stands, non-uniform plant height and lodging are common damage characteristics of hessian fly.



## COTTON



If conditions remain conducive for rapid germination and emergence, at-planting seedling protection (seed, hopper box and in-furrow applied insecticide) should provide adequate protection to cotton seedlings. Thrips pressure is related to cotton emergence and corresponding thrips moving out of maturing wheat. Judging by how fast the wheat is maturing, we are probably seeing the peak migration now. All fields need to be scouted weekly once the plants can be rowed and seen from the road.

If you have cotton fields planted adjacent to pastures, I would encourage you to check the area for grasshoppers. It doesn't take long for grasshoppers to cause significant damage to seedling cotton. If grasshoppers begin moving into seedling cotton, now would be a good time to make an application of Dimilin 2L® at the rate of 1 to 1.5 oz./acre. Dimilin does a good job controlling grasshopper nymphs. Dimilin 2L® must be applied when nymphs are small. Effects from this treatment may not be evident until 3 to 10 days after treatment but it does have a good residual.

Cotton aphids can be found in some fields but remain light and highly sporadic. I have heard of a few fields that have been treated already for cotton aphids but that is just rumor. I personally have not seen a field that needed treatment to date.

### Wireworms

It appears that folks to the North of us are having problems with wireworms this year. Problems seem to be greatest in fields following grain crops such as sorghum and wheat. Monitor fields closely if you are planting into a lot of plant residue. We currently have no insecticide labeled as a preventative or curative treatment for wireworms in cotton. Syngenta's Cruiser seed treatment is labeled for wireworm control in corn, sorghum and beans. While Cruiser is labeled for cotton, it is not labeled for wireworm control. The company does not have any efficacy data at this time but Cruiser treated seed may be the best option to at least try in a replant situation.



## GRAIN SORGHUM



Keep a watch for greenbugs. Remember greenbugs are generally found on the underside of the leaves. Corn leaf aphids are generally in the whorl. Corn leaf aphids seldom cause economic damage and can be considered beneficial at times because they act as a food source for many natural enemies. For ID of these two aphids, refer to previous newsletter.



## PECAN NUT CASEBEARER



If you are going to treat for pecan nut casebearer "IT'S TIME." It is suggested if water is limiting, do not treat for casebearers. Many pecan trees have large nut sets following last year's freeze and dry weather. Those trees might best spend their energy on developing a healthy canopy of leaves. Losing some of these nuts may benefit the overall tree health. Nitrogen is the key (besides water) to good leaf production and filled nuts. Healthy bearing trees should grow 6-12 inches per year. Be sure to spray your pecan trees with Zinc Sulfate to decrease rosette problems.



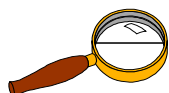
## WEATHER INFORMATION



The Runnels County Weather Station is up and running. You can view the weather data by going to <http://sanangelo.tamu.edu>. Scroll down and on the lower right hand side you will need to click on “Information You Want.” After the screen changes, on the left hand side you will then need to click on “Weather Image and Links.” Click on “Local.” You can then choose from the links in the middle of your screen: “Daily Weather Summary North of Wall,” “Daily Weather Summary East of Rowena,” “Historical Weather Data,” etc. There are pages there that explain each weather symbol.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN JUNE



The Tom Green/Runnels County Pest Management Committee is sponsoring a scout school June 1 and 2. This is the only scout school in the state that provides both an intensive classroom and real field experience in a two-day session. The program will allow the experienced to become familiar again with scouting cotton and associated pests and economic thresholds. For first timers, the school provides an opportunity to learn about cotton insects in the field before the season gets too busy.



Cost for scout school for private industry is \$50.00 for the first intern and \$10.00 for each additional intern. For producers attending, the cost will be \$10.00. The fee will cover sponsorship of the program plus publication costs of the education material.

The educational material will include information on cotton physiology, cotton varieties, cotton diseases and cotton insects. In addition, the material will include color photos of insect pests as well as color photos of the natural enemies present in cotton. Scout School will be at Texas Cooperative Extension in San Angelo. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. **CEU credits will be given at that time.** Be thinking of joining us there.

The “Daily Crop Update” sponsored by the SRPCGA will begin around the middle of June. The telephone number is 325-365-2642 and will provide daily insect updates, crop development information and some weed management tips.

Turnrow meetings will also begin about the middle of June. More information will be given as the season progresses.

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                     |
| 4/30             | 2                 | .33                     | 4/30       | 0                 | 0                       | 4/30      | 0                 | 0                       |
| 5/07             | 0                 | 0                       | 5/07       | 0                 | 0                       | 5/07      | 0                 | 0                       |
| 5/20             | 3                 | .23                     | 5/20       | 1                 | .08                     | 5/20      | 0                 | 0                       |