

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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May 27, 2005
Vol. XVIII No.05
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GENERAL SITUATION

Scattered thunderstorms Wednesday night and early Thursday morning was a welcome site for many folks. Rainfall amounts varied significantly from one area to another. Cooler temperatures are certainly welcome as well. Wall/Veribest area received upwards of 1.5 to 1.7 inches, West of Miles more than 2 inches, .5 inches at Rowena, .3 inches at Hatchel/Ballinger and close to one inch at Wingate. This front is supposed to last through the weekend so everyone may get some much needed rainfall.

Grain sorghum is really doing well with very little insect pressure at this time. Some sorghum fields are showing signs of nutrient deficiencies.

A lot of cotton has been planted the past ten days and producers are encouraged to monitor as these cotton fields come up to a stand. These small seedlings are very vulnerable to thrips damage. Wheat and other host plants have rapidly matured due to hot dry weather conditions and thrips are moving to greener pastures. If the seed was treated with Cruiser®, you should be okay for 15 to 20 days after emergence.

COTTON

Thrips— one of the major pests early in the season. They attack leaves, leaf buds and very small squares. If your seeing deformed or blackened leaves, it is probably thrips damage. Under cool wet conditions where cotton is not growing rapidly, thrips damage is most evident. Under favorable growing conditions, cotton can usually recover completely from early thrips damage.

Control may be justified when the average number of thrips counted per plant is equal to the number of true leaves present at the time of inspection. One thrips per plant should be used as a treatment level from plant emergence, through the cotyledon stage, to the first true leaf. Scouting should begin once cotton has reached approximately 50% stand emergence.

Some recommended foliar insecticides for thrips control include:

Acephate @ 2-4 oz./acre
Dimethoate 4E @ 4-8 oz./acre

Bidrin® 8E @ 0.8-3.2 oz./acre
and others



I would caution everyone that cabbage loopers have caused some problems from Corpus Christi to the Dallas area and many points east and west of these areas. Dr. Roy Parker says he has not recalled a similar situation in 40 years. Apparently, mortality of the small larvae on seedling cotton was very high in these areas and damage was not as severe as it could have been. You would expect very high mortality in this situation. We should monitor our cotton fields closely once it comes to a stand.

CORN

With the rain the other night there came a lot of wind with it and some corn fields received some wind damage. This damage to corn caused by high wind is termed as “Green Snap” or “Brittle Corn.” The following information was taken from North Dakota State University Extension Service:

“Green snap or “brittle corn” are terms often used to describe the breakage of corn stalks caused by high winds primarily during the elongation (rapid growth) period of vegetative growth. Green snap can occur at most any vegetative stage after the growing point reaches the soil surface (8 inches tall), but corn usually is most susceptible from the 14-leaf to tassel stages. Rapidly growing plants, adequately supplied with water and nutrients are predisposed to green snap. Cells at each node site are rapidly dividing. The new cells push-up and elongate to form internodes thus increasing plant height and leaf exposure. These cells, when growing rapidly, will be thin-walled at first with little strength, tissue or fiber. Therefore they become quite vulnerable to breakage by wind, cultivation, anhydrous application or any physical activity that bends the stalk. At night they are extremely vulnerable since the plants are turgid, which means full of water. During midday they are less susceptible as the cells are less-full of water and stalks are more flexible.

Corn being grown under the best conditions of plentiful moisture, high N rates, warm temperatures and optimum plant populations is vulnerable to green snap. Usually breakage occurs just below the primary ear node site. Some hybrids appear to have a longer time period when the stalks are susceptible to breakage. Most corn seed companies test/screen using artificial green snap tests to eliminate those corn lines that tend to have weaker stalks.”

WHEAT

Wheat harvest has begun and yields are surprisingly good. Bushel weights are averaging 62 up to 64 pounds. Grain yields being reported are ranging from 40- 45 bushels per acre. With the late crop and leaf rust problem, this is a welcome site for wheat producers. We were expecting average at best.

SCOUT SCHOOL

The Tom Green/Runnels County Pest Management Committee is sponsoring a scout school June 6 and 7. 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.

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. You can preregister by calling 325-365-5212. The deadline for registering is June 2, 2005.

Pink Bollworm Traps

	Runnels 5/18	Runnels 5/25	Tom Green 5/19	Tom Green 5/26
Trap 1	2	20	3	4
Trap 2	1	8	49	27
Trap 3	1	49	15	48
Trap 4	1	10	54	28

Rowena

	Rainfall		Date	Max. Air Temp.	Min. Air Temp.	Average Wind Speed
	January	0.46	May 18	88	64	7.443
	February	4.57	May 19	87	64	5.510
	March	3.43	May 20	92	61	2.592
	April	0.06	May 21	94	65	3.250
	May as of the 24 th	1.80	May 22	96	63	5.186
			May 23	97	66	7.094
			May 24	99	63	6.831

Wall

		Rainfall		Date	Max. Air Temp.	Min. Air Temp.	Average Wind Speed
		January	0.58	May 18	89	65	7.443
		February	2.46	May 19	89	68	6.621
		March	3.88	May 20	94	64	4.001
		April	1.24	May 21	95	67	3.901
		May as of the 24 th	1.73	May 22	96	67	5.529
				May 23	97	68	7.618
				May 24	100	64	6.737

2005 P. I. E. Tour
Producer Information Exchange

Sponsored by FMC Corporation
In Cooperation with
National Cotton Council
The Cotton Foundation
And
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association

Tour Date: August 13-18, 2005
To: Alabama, Georgia, Florida

Applications are available from SRP participating gins or by calling 325-754-4542. Applications must be returned to SRPCGA Board Members or mailed to SRPCGA, P.O. Box 211, Winters, Texas, 79567 and must be received by July 5, 2005. Must be actively engaged in cotton farming. Selection will be made at the July 5th board meeting of the SRPCGA.