

# **PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS**

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

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### GENERAL SITUATION

The weather pattern has changed a little over the past week. Scattered rainfall fell over parts of the Concho Valley early Tuesday morning. Measurable rainfall ranged from 0.1 to 1.5-inches. Generally, hot temperatures and dry conditions prevail. Sorghum ranges in maturity from early bloom to hard dough stage. Cotton ranges in growth from 4<sup>th</sup> true leaf to 1<sup>st</sup> bloom. Majority of the cotton is pinhead to 1/3 grown square stage.

### CONSERVATION TILLAGE TOUR

The tour was a big success with some 120 producers participating in the program. I appreciate all the sponsors for their financial support and SRPCGA, NRCS and Texas Cooperative Extension for putting together an excellent educational program. I also want to thank Dennis Minzenmayer, Charles Waller and Larry Schwertner for allowing us to visit their farms.

### COTTON

Despite the hot dry temperatures, cotton continues to make good progress. Irrigation has begun in many cotton fields. With the current weather conditions, we are losing 0.31 to 0.40-inches of moisture per day from evapotranspiration. So in a seven-day period, we have an estimated loss of 2.8-inches. As you can see, we can get behind quite rapidly. If irrigation water is limited or it takes awhile to get irrigation water across the field, it's better to start early than be late.

Square sets this week ranged from a low of 61% to a high of 94%. Fleahopper numbers ranged from 3 to 58 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. The higher numbers were in the Ballinger, Wall and Mereta areas. Fleahopper infestations vary greatly so producers are encouraged to scout cotton fields regularly not only for the insect pests but also square retention. Some of the cotton fields, with the highest numbers of fleahoppers, have an excellent square set and are averaging 14 to 16 fruiting positions set per plant. These particular fields have not been treated and have way more fruit set than the plant can retain. So be sure to take everything into consideration when making management decisions. Natural enemy numbers have really increased this week and it would not be wise to take them out unnecessarily.

Refer to previous newsletter for recommended insecticides, rates and cost.

There have been a number of questions pertaining to the use of using below labeled or recommended rates of insecticides. Trials conducted in Tom Green County over the past five years has shown in all instances using reduced rates of insecticides reduced the residual activity of these insecticides. It is not illegal to use insecticides below label rates, but keep in mind using lower rates is going to reduce the residual activity of that insecticide.

Cotton aphid infestations range from nonexistent in many fields to averaging 30 to 50 aphids per leaf in others. The higher infestations are fields which have thin plant stands and are stressed. Monitor cotton fields closely.

The first wave of bollworm activity occurred last week with egg counts ranging from 0 to 10 bollworm eggs per 100 plants. I would not worry much about this small egg-lay. Heat plays a major mortality role until cotton gets some size to it and starts shading the middles.

**GRAIN SORGHUM**

Headworm infestations remain well below economically damaging levels as does conchuela stink bugs. Stink bugs can be found in some sorghum fields near or at threshold levels in the field margin but not across the whole field. Spraying field margins is all that is necessary sometimes. The economic threshold for stink bugs during the milk stage is an average of 5-6 stink bugs per head and goes up to 9-10 stink bugs per head during the soft dough stage. Once sorghum has reached hard dough and is drying down, stink bugs cause very little damage.

Remember grain sorghum fields serve as excellent nurseries for beneficial insects which will move into cotton as the sorghum dries down.

Heat Accumulations

Rowena				Wall			
Heat Accumulations		Rainfall		Heat Accumulations		Rainfall	
Planting Date	July 07	January	0.46	Planting Date	July 07	January	0.58
May 01	1,127.9	February	4.57	May 01	1,153.0	February	2.46
May 15	1,012.8	March	3.43	May 15	1,037.1	March	3.88
June 1	771.7	April	0.06	June 01	786.7	April	1.24
June 10	599.7	May	4.21	June 10	618.2	May	5.85
June 15	511.5	June	0.29	June 15	526.8	June	0.27
		July 4	0.55			July 4	0.30

**Accumulated head units (DD60s) required for developmental stages of cotton**

Growth Interval	Number of Days (range)	Heat Units (range)
Planting to seeding emergence	4-9	50-60
Emergence to first square	27-38	425-475
Square to white flower 2	0-25	300-350
Planting to first flower	60-70	775-850
White flower to open boll	45-66	850
Planting to cutout	80-100	1,000-1,600
Planting to harvest	130-170	2,600
Between nodes:		
Up the main stem	2-34	0-60
Out of the branch	5-7	80-120

**TURNROW MEETINGS & DAILY  
INSECT REPORTS**

**TURNROW MEETINGS** next week will be on Tuesday, July 12 at the Wall Coop Gin starting at 9:00 a.m. The second turnrow meeting is Wednesday, July 13 at the Ballinger Coop Gin starting at 8:30 a.m.

**THE DAILY INSECT REPORT** will continue Monday thru Friday, 325-365-2642.

**Pink Bollworm Traps**

	Runnels 6/30	Runnels 6/30	Tom Green 6/28	Tom Green 7/05
Trap 1	72	19	38	27
Trap 2	29	n/a	133	55
Trap 3	37	2	33	6
Trap 4	22	8	22	77

**Bollworm Traps**

Date	Runnels	Date	Tom Green
6/22	71	6/23	21
6/27	77	6/27	12
7/5	0	7/5	18

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