

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton is really doing well and growing conditions are perfect. Bollworm moth trap numbers have declined and bollworm egg counts remain low. Generally worm counts remain well below threshold levels but producers are encouraged to continue monitoring cotton fields closely for the presence of bollworms. Remember that whole plant counts are the most reliable. Most of the larvae Katie and I have found this week is well into the plant canopy. So be sure and pull back the bracts of each and every square, bloom and boll when you are checking for the presence of larvae. Cotton, which has bloom out the top, is much less susceptible and less attractive to bollworms so consider those fields which are 4 NAWF or greater to scout first.

Monitoring NAWF is a key in making late season insect decisions as well as determining the need for plant growth regulators. NAWF measures the potential boll loading sites remaining. At this point in the season, all carbohydrates produced by the plant are committed to boll development on cotton planted prior to June 15th, the last effective bloom that needs to be protected appears when NAWF is equal to 4. At this point, the cotton plant is not adding additional nodes up the plant and therefore plant growth regulators are not needed. On the other hand, if NAWF is 5 or greater, it has the ability to continue growth. If this is the case, measure the upper 5 nodes on the plant. If the measurement is less than 10-inches, no plant growth regulator is needed. If it is longer than 10-inches, then a plant growth regulator is probably needed. It takes about 100 flowers to produce 1 pound of seed cotton. After cotton reaches cutout, the number of flowers needed to produce one pound of seed cotton increases significantly.

Once bolls have accumulated 350 to 450 HU's, their susceptibility to bollworm damage is reduced. Currently we are accumulating 21 HU's per day. So a red bloom today, would need 22 days to reach a point when susceptibility was reduced. After 450 HU's, only large larvae can penetrate the boll wall. To be fully protected from bollworm damage, it will take approximately 750 HU's. The boll is mature at 850 HU's.

Rainfall was wonderful and many areas received upwards to 5-inches but, remember, our cotton is using about .3-inches of water per day. In a week's time, we have used up 2-inches of water. What I am trying to say is don't get behind now on irrigation. Once cotton reaches cutout, it is still using a considerable amount of water. Significant water use does not decline until first open boll. So it may be time to turn the pumps back on. Especially in drip irrigated fields when it's difficult to play catch up.

Lastly, bollworm infestations remain low and very spotty. Several fields were treated this week for bollworms but generally infestation levels remain very low. Egg counts are very low as well. Aphid numbers seem to be increasing somewhat so monitor your fields not only for worms but also aphids. If a field requires treatment for bollworms, it would probably be wise to put an aphicide in with the pyrethroid to keep aphids from flaring up. Remember what happened last year? Bidrin® at the 8 oz. rate would be a good choice. It's cheaper and it's different mode of action from Intruder, Centric and the others.

TURNROW MEETINGS & DAILY INSECT REPORTS

TURNROW MEETINGS next week will be on Tuesday, August 30 at the Wall Coop Gin starting at 9:00 a.m. and on Wednesday, August 31 at the Ballinger Coop Gin at 8:30 a.m. **THE DAILY INSECT REPORT** will continue Monday thru Friday, 325-365-2642.

Heat Accumulations

Rowena				Wall			
Heat Accumulations 2005		Heat Accumulations 2004		Heat Accumulations 2005		Heat Accumulations 2004	
Planting Date	Aug 22		Aug 25	Planting Date	Aug 22		Aug 25
May 01	2,072.9	May 01	2,192.4	May 01	2,083.3	May 01	2,161.5
May 15	1,957.8	May 15	2,044.6	May 15	1,967.4	May 15	2,011.0
June 01	1,716.7	June 01	1,734.3	June 01	1,717.0	June 01	1,695.6
June 10	1,544.7	June 10	1,560.4	June 10	1,548.5	June 10	1,509.4
June 15	1,456.5	June 15	1,445.2	June 15	1,457.1	June 15	1,393.6

Rainfall 2005	May	4.21
	June	0.29
	July	1.74
	August 22	5.51

Rainfall 2005	May	5.85
	June	0.27
	July	1.39
	August 22	4.43

Pink Bollworm Traps

	Runnels 8/17	Runnels 8/23	Tom Green 8/18	Tom Green 8/24
Trap 1	48	124	5	0
Trap 2	3	9	10	56
Trap 3	11	52	15	35
Trap 4	5	4	62	67

Bollworm Traps

Date	8/10	8/17	8/17
Average	7	171	123