

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton has really progressed the past two weeks and many dryland cotton fields which were planted the first two weeks of May are fast approaching 80-85% open. Heat Unit Accumulation is still averaging 18-20 HU's per day. This is great. As of September 16, there has been 2,533 HU's accumulated from May 1 and 1,917 from June 15. June planted cotton which is carrying a heavy fruit lead is certainly showing signs of moisture stress. A good 1" rain this weekend would help this cotton. Most of the cotton should have enough moisture to finish maturing the bolls. Remember, bolls that have some chance of producing a harvestable boll should be ½ grown.

Cotton aphids are a problem in some fields and should be monitored closely. Texas is looking at another bumper cotton crop and, with the surplus carryover from last year, buyers will be looking closely for sticky cotton and anything else to discount your lint. Once the honeydew is deposited on the lint, it stays there until it is washed off by a rainfall event or irrigation.

Spidermites.

Spidermites are still present in low numbers throughout the Veribest and Wall communities but damage is low. Numbers do not seem to be increasing and dessication of leave tissue is minimal. Cotton can stand some defoliation or reduction in leaf tissue this time of year and not affect yield. Predacious thrips seem to be keeping spidermites in check. According to Stephen Halfmann, some cotton fields which triggered boll weevil sprays several weeks ago are taking some heavy spidermite damage right now. So if one of your fields trigger for a malathion treatment, monitor the spidermite situation closely in that field.

Cotton Aphids.

Cotton aphids remain highly variable in numbers across the area. Aphids can be a big problem as the season progresses. Sticky cotton will be the biggest threat as more cotton opens.

Biological control mid to late season is very poor because lady beetle numbers decline and are usually replaced with lacewings. Lacewing survival is usually low in most areas as well because other predators feed on them. So don't expect natural enemies to reduce aphid infestations significantly this time of year. The economic threshold once cotton begins to open is lowered to an average to 10-15 aphids per leaf.

Heat Units Needed for Cotton Development

Planting To:	
Stand Establishment	78
Squaring	526
First Bloom	1064
First Open Boll	1641
95% Mature Bolls	2271

Heat Accumulations

Rowena

Wall

Heat Accumulations 2005				Heat Accumulations 2005			
Planting Date	Sep 16			Planting Date	Sep 16		
May 01	2,533.7			May 01	2,550.1		
May 15	2,418.6			May 15	2,434.2		
June 01	2,177.5			June 01	2,183.8		
June 10	2,005.5			June 10	2,015.3		
June 15	1,917.3			June 15	1,923.9		
Rainfall 2005	May	4.21		Rainfall 2005	May	5.85	
	June	0.29			June	0.27	
	July	1.74			July	1.39	
	August	7.33			August	4.88	
	September 16	1.04			September 16	0.08	

SMALL GRAINS

The continuous presence of armyworms really is not surprising considering the development of the population this fall and the mild temperatures the area is experiencing. Weather conditions and availability of a food source have been almost ideal this fall.

Damage done by fall armyworms usually consists of foliage feeding. The small larvae will chew the green layer from the leaves and leave a clearing or “window pane” effect. The first three instars do relatively very little feeding while the last two instars consume 85 percent of the total foliage consumed by the caterpillars. This is the reason it is important to find the infestations before the larvae or caterpillars become too large. Small larvae are easier to control and most of the damage can be prevented if the infestation is caught early. Individual fields should be scouted carefully because the moths will not lay their eggs consistently across the area. Many times a pasture or small grain field will be infested and the field across the road will not have any larvae present.

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When small grains are in the seedling stage, three larvae per square foot or one to two larvae per linear foot can devastate a stand. Once small grains begin to tiller, the thresholds can increase to three to five larvae per square foot or two to three per linear foot. Fall armyworms are easily controlled if producers monitor their fields closely. The key is proper identification and finding the infestation before the larvae become too large.

Pink Bollworm Traps

	Runnels 9/13	Runnels 9/20	Tom Green 9/14	Tom Green 9/21
Trap 1	9	207	6	28
Trap 2	4	12	25	99
Trap 3	14	15	14	56
Trap 4	16	62	32	52

Bollworm Traps

Date	9/06	9/13	9/20
Average	72	73	105



COTTON TOURS



**Tom Green Crop Tour
Wednesday, September 28, 2005**

- *9:00 a.m. Meet at St. Ambrose Parish Hall, Wall, Tx
- *Tour Stops
 - Irrigated Variety Test
Chris Bubenik Farm
 - Harvest-aide Demonstration
John Wilde Farm
 - Evaluation of Various Fungicides for Control of Cotton Root Rot
Jerry Multer Farm
- *Noon St. Ambrose Parish Hall BBQ Area
Complimentary Meal
- *Speakers Dr. Billy Warrick, Extension Agronomist
Dr. Tom Isakeit, Extension Plant Pathologist
Randal Schwartz, BWE
Crop Ins./Chemical/Seed Co. Reps.

Please RSVP by September 26 to Steve Sturtz at Tom Green County Extension Office, 325-659-6523, or Rick Minzenmayer, 325-365-5212, so we may have a number of attending for the caterer.

Participants attending the entire Cotton Tour, will be eligible to receive 2 CEU's (2 General) toward their commercial or private applicators license.



**Runnels Crop Tour
Thursday, September 29, 2005**

- *9:00 a.m. Meet at Runnels County Courthouse
- *Tour Stops
 - Dryland Variety Test
Dennis Minzenmayer Farm
 - Harvest-aide Demonstration
Dennis Minzenmayer Farm
 - TDA Laws and Regulations Update
- *Noon Old St. Mary's Hall in Ballinger, Tx
Complimentary Meal
- *Speakers Dr. Billy Warrick, Extension Agronomist
Mark Bills, TDA Inspector
Randal Schwartz, BWE
Crop Ins./ Chemical/Seed Co. Reps.

Please RSVP by September 26 to Marty Gibbs at Runnels County Extension Office, 325-365-2219, or Rick Minzenmayer, 325-365-5212, so we may have a number of attending for the caterer.

Participants attending the entire Cotton Tour, will be eligible to receive 2 CEU's (1 Laws & Reg, 1 General) toward their commercial or private applicators license.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid or accommodation are asked to contact the Runnels or Tom Green Extension Offices at the above numbers one week in advance of the program.