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# PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

*NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN GLASSCOCK, REAGAN AND UPTON COUNTIES*

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## GENERAL SITUATION

Hot, dry conditions with good soil moisture has allowed cotton planting to be completed and progress in all stages of cotton. Cotton ranges from cotyledon stage to pin-head square stage. Thrips populations are slacking off and cotton is outgrowing most infestation.

## SCOUTING PROGRAM

The scouts have begun working by locating fields and scouting for thrips in most fields. They will begin fleahopper and square set counts in some fields this week. If they have not contacted you, give me a call.

## SCOUT SAFETY

It is of utmost importance that the scouts do not unnecessarily exposed to insecticides before the re-entry interval has passed. Please contact your scouts or me if your scout field is sprayed near the time it will be scouted. This includes eradication treatments also.

## THRIPS

Good soil moisture and warm conditions have stimulated cotton to grow rapidly. Some past thrips damage is evident, but most fields have undamaged leaves present now. Some damage to leaves is also caused by wind, blowing sand and other environmental conditions.

## FLEAHOPPERS

Some cotton is beginning to square and fleahoppers become the major pest of interest. Fleahoppers are abundant in silver-leaf nightshades, croton and other alternate weed hosts now and may move to cotton.

Adult fleahoppers are about 1/8 inch long and pale green. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and are light green. They move very rapidly when disturbed. Adults move into cotton from weed hosts when cotton begins to square. Both adults and nymphs suck sap from the tender portion of the plant, including small squares. Pinhead size and smaller squares are most susceptible to damage.

The decision to apply insecticide should be based on the number of fleahoppers present, the squaring rate and the percent square set. If conditions are conducive to the rapid build-up of cotton fleahoppers in alternate hosts, scouting intervals should be shortened (i.e., monitor fields every 3 to 4 days). During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 85 percent square set. Starting with the third week of squaring up to first bloom, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 percent fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 75 percent square set.

## ERADICATION

Some fields north, west and east of Garden City have triggered treatment for weevils. They are being sprayed if weevil numbers warrant (2 weevils triggers 40 acres) and the growth has reached pinhead square stage. Please help eradication personnel make this part of the program run as smoothly as possible. Accurate trap information is very important to make treatment decisions. I realize some traps are in difficult locations to do field work, but contact your field unit supervisor and they will work with you.

## WEED CONTROL

Several weeks of rainfall has allowed many weevils to do extremely well and they are competing with small cotton

seedlings.

The application window for Glyphosate on Roundup Ready® cotton has passed in many of the earlier planted fields and is approaching fast in later fields. Don't let this slip up on you. Spraying after the 5<sup>th</sup> true-leaf can result in unwanted fruit loss.

We do have several Roundup Flex® tests out this year. This new technology will allow you to spray throughout the season over the top. It should be available next year.

Some questions have arisen on control of weeds in conventional cotton. The main over-the-top product available would be Staple®. It is fairly expensive so some are considering banding it. Best control will occur on very small weeds. Staple® does have soil activity on germinating weeds.

### TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 28 9:00 am Glasscock Coop  
 Wednesday, June 29 9:00 am Midkiff Coop

### HEAT UNITS

Heat units averaged 19 per day the past week. Heat units since 5-5, 5-15, 5-25, 6-5 compared with last year and a five year average in the table below.

DATE	5/5	5/15	5/25	6/5
2005	632	512	354	205
2004	805	667	481	262
5 YEAR AVG	704	566	415	227

### WEATHER DATA

Weather data for the past two weeks is included in the table that follows:

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
6/2	93	67	0	13	76
6/3	87	60	1.41	11	74
6/4	94	69	0	9	75
6/5	89	66	0	8	77
6/6	88	67	0	12	77
6/7	87	69	0.09	13	77
6/8	91	70	0	12	78
6/9	93	71	0	14	79
6/10	77	65	0.09	15	78
6/11	82	68	0	12	76
6/12	95	69	0	13	77
6/13	97	69	0	9	78
6/14	87	72	0	11	79
6/15	92	66	0	9	79

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