

UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Matagorda

Wharton

Jackson

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TPMA Website

The Upper Coast Crop Improvement newsletter and other Extension IPM Program newsletters from across the state can be viewed at the Texas Pest Management Association website at www.tpma.org.

Upper Coast IPM Program Sponsors

Farmers Gin of Palacios Farmers Coop of El Campo

Moses Gin Vanderbilt Gin

Danevang Farmers Coop

Cotton Insect Situation

Growth stages of cotton in the Tri-County area of Wharton, Matagorda and Jackson Counties ranged from the 3 to 4 leaf stage to pinhead square stage.

Aphid numbers were light throughout the week. Low numbers of **spider mites** were found in 38% of the fields. Spider mites were most prevalent in fields located in the Danevang to Palacios area.

Fleahoppers averaged 8 per 100 plant terminals (range 0-31) in fields that were at first square to pinhead square. Thirty-two percent of these fields were at the economic threshold level (15 per 100 plant terminals) which justified an

insecticide application to be made for control. Fleahopper pressure was the heaviest in the El Toro to La Salle area. Low **bollworm** egg counts were found in 21% of the fields that were monitored. Number of **loopers** decreased significantly compared to previous weeks numbers.

Beneficial insects found in fields during the past week included lady beetles, fire ants, minute pirate bugs, and parasitic wasps. Other beneficial arthropods included predator mites and spiders.

Beet Armyworm Moth Trap Counts

Shown below are the beet armyworm moth trap count numbers for this year compared to the same time period for the previous four years.

Table 1. Weekly number of beet armyworm moths caught, Wharton County (located near Crescent), Operated by Texas Cooperative Extension.

Date	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
3/14	0	4.5	0	3	2
3/21	.5	13.5	.5	2	.5
3/28	0	0	0	3.5	1.5
4/4	0	4	0	26	1
4/11	5	1.5	1	13	8.5
4/18	10	.5	.5	5.5	1
4/25	10	.5	1.5	32.5	12.5
5/2	11.5	1.5	3	23	20.5
5/9	15	18.5	21.5	52	97.5

* BAW moth numbers represent the average of two traps.

County Crop Tours

Crop Tour dates have been announced for counties located in the Upper Coast region. In order to see if any changes have occurred and for detailed tour information, please contact individual County Extension offices.

County	Date
Wharton (979/532/3310)	June 11
Matagorda (979-245/4100)	June 17
Colorado (979/732/2082)	June 16
Calhoun (361/552/9747)	June 12
Victoria (361/575/4581)	June 19

Did You Know

Economic threshold (ET) is the level of pest infestation when control should be applied to keep an increasing pest population from causing economical losses. The ET is also called the action threshold because it is the pest level where action should be taken so that economic losses are avoided.

The economic threshold is a key IPM decision-making tool. Thresholds are based on considerable amounts of research and/or field experience. If the economic threshold is approached, but not reached, do not apply a pesticide at that time. Instead, re-scout the field within a few days to determine the status of the infestation. Pest populations can decline naturally due to mortality from natural enemies and unfavorable weather conditions.