



# UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

|                  |   |                |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| <b>Matagorda</b> | <b>Wharton</b><br>210 South Rusk-Wharton, Texas 77488 | <b>Jackson</b> |
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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](http://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

During the past week, growth stages of cotton in the Tri-County area of Wharton, Matagorda and Jackson Counties ranged from first square to one-third grown square.

**Aphid** numbers were light through the Upper Coast region with the exception of a couple of fields located in the La Ward area of Jackson County. **Spider mite** numbers remain low and have decreased during the past week when compared to the previous week of May 5-11.

**Fleahoppers** averaged 5 per 100 plant terminals (range 0-29) during the past week. Twenty-three percent of these fields were at or above the economic threshold level (10-15 per plant terminals) which warrants an insecticide application to be made for control. Fleahopper numbers were the heaviest in the Danevang, Blue Creek and Hillje areas of Wharton County. Low **bollworm** egg counts were found in 31% of the fields that were monitored.

**Looper** numbers decreased significantly for the second week in a row.

**Beneficial predator and parasite** populations were very light (0.1 beneficials per 2 plant terminals ) during the past week.

### **Boll Weevil Trap Counts**

Included in the Table below, are the monthly boll weevil trap counts for the first five months of the years 2000-2003. Traps are located between El Campo and Hillje on farm to market highway 1162, county roads 442, 422, 409, 426, and farm to market highway 441.

Table 1. Boll weevils/pheromone trap per month, Wharton County, Texas. Operated by Texas Cooperative Extension

| <b>Month</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jan          | 4.47        | 0.25        | 2.15        | 0.06        |
| Feb          | 4.17        | 0.09        | 1.78        | 0.00        |
| Mar          | 29.73       | 5.88        | 0.49        | 2.25        |
| April        | 103.79      | 36.32       | 19.29       | 7.34        |
| May          | 47.39       | 14.04       | 13.12       | 1.16*       |
| Avg.         | 37.91       | 11.32       | 7.37        | 2.16        |

\* only for the first two weeks of May.

### **Did You Know**

Growth stages of cotton occur after a set number of DD60s have been accumulated. Therefore, a table of growth stages as related to DD60s can be developed. There are minor differences or variability between varieties and environmental conditions (such as water stress and fertility levels) will also impact growth. See Table 1 listed below.

Table 1. Growth stages by accumulation of DD60s and Days

|                          | Number of Days |     |      | DD 60s    |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----|------|-----------|
|                          | Avg            | Low | High |           |
| Planting to emergence    | 7              | 4   | 10   | 50-60     |
| Emergence to 1st fr. br. | 24             | 21  | 27   | 300-340   |
| Emer. to 1st square      | 32             | 27  | 38   | 425-475   |
| Emer. to 1st white bloom | 55             | 50  | 60   | 825-875   |
| Emer. to peak bloom      | 90             | 85  | 95   | 1385-1435 |
| Emer. to 1st open boll   | 110            | 105 | 115  | 1700-1750 |
| Emer. to 60% open boll   | 140            | 135 | 145  | 2180-2230 |

Source: Deltapine Seed Cotton Management Guide