



UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Matagorda	Wharton 210 South Rusk-Wharton, Texas 77488	Jackson
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Dan D. Fromme EXTENSION AGENT-IPM OFFICE: 979-532-8040 FAX: 979-532-8863</p>	
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HOME: 979-282-2574 E-mail: d-fromme@tamu.edu

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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

Moses Gin	Vanderbilt Gin
Farmers Gin of Palacios	Danevang Farmers Coop

Farmers Coop of El Campo

Cotton Insect Situation

Growth stages of cotton in the Tri-County area of Wharton, Matagorda and Jackson Counties ranged from

matchhead square to one-third grown square.

Aphid numbers remained light but appeared to be gradually increasing as the week progressed.

Fleahoppers averaged 4 per 100 plant terminals (range 0-36) during the past week. Twelve percent of the fields were at or above the economic threshold level.

Live **boll weevils** were found in 4% of the field that were monitored. Boll weevil punctured square counts remained at zero for the season.

Low numbers of **bollworm** eggs were found in 24% of the fields. Larvae counts averaged 0.16% (range 0-4) throughout the week. Damaged square counts ranged from 0 to 1%.

Brown Stink Bugs were found in low numbers in 4% of the fields.

Beneficial predator and parasite populations were very light (0.04 beneficials per 2 plant terminals) during the past week. Previous weeks numbers were 0.1 beneficials per 2 plant terminals.

Beet Armyworm Moth Trap Counts

Shown below are the beet armyworm moth trap count numbers for this year versus the previous five years.

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

Date	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
5/2	11.5	1.5	3	23	20.5	21
5/9	15	18.5	21.5	52	97.5	21.5
5/16	5	61.5	7	17	20.5	9
5/23	31	71	4	15.5	6	14.5

* BAW moth numbers represent the average of two traps.

County Crop Tours

The following dates have been set for the 2003 County Crop Tours. Please contact the appropriate CEA for specific times and starting locations.

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

“Turn Row” Information Meeting

A field meeting will be held to inform and update producers on the numerous field experiments that are being conducted at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the auditorium at the center on Wednesday, May 28. Contact County Extension Agents, Harvey Buehring (361-762-5223) or Jeff Stapper (361-364-6234) for details.

Did You Know

Sweat bees are named for their habit of licking perspiration from the skin. Great numbers are often attracted to perspiring people engaged in outdoor activities. They cause a tickling sensation when feeding; however, if caught

between clothing and skin or mashed, they will sting. The sting is mild and the pain lasts only a short time. There are numerous species of sweat bees. Many are bright metallic green. A colony may consist of a few individuals to several hundred. They do not store honey.

