

UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

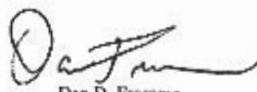
Matagorda

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

Moses Gin Farmers Coop of El Campo

Farmers Gin of Palacios Vanderbilt Gin

Danevang Farmers Coop

General Conditions

During the past two weeks, sunshine, warmer temperatures and dry conditions have been favorable for cotton growth after the prolonged period of heavy rainfall and waterlogged soils.

Cotton Insect Situation

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

Aphids were light in eighty-five percent of the fields monitored during the past week. However, aphid numbers

appear to be increasing compared to the previous week's numbers.

Fleahopper numbers remained extremely low compared to the past several years at this same time of year. There have been very few reports of fleahoppers being found in high numbers during the past two weeks.

No **boll weevil** punctured squares were found during the past week.

Bollworm numbers/pressure was insignificant in fields that were monitored during the past week.

Other insect pests found in low numbers included loopers and leaf rollers.

Beneficial insects and arthropods found during the past week included parasitic wasps, lady beetles, minute pirate bugs, syrphid flies, fire ants, and spiders.

Square Shed

During the past two weeks, square shed has been observed. Fleahoppers have not been the culprit due to very low numbers in fields. Possible causes of square shed could be attributed to the abiotic stresses we have experienced from the prolonged cloudy- wet conditions. Low levels of solar radiation could reduce the rate of photosynthesis and hence less carbohydrate supplied to the plant. Also, waterlogged soils cause the fermentation process to occur which reduces the amount of energy produced during the respiration process. Waterlogged soil conditions can induce the production of ethylene in the plant which could possibly cause square shed to occur as well. (over)

County Crop Tours

The following dates have been set for the 2004 County Crop Tours. Please contact the appropriate CEA for specific times and starting locations.

County	Date
Calhoun 361/552-9747	June 10 - PM
Colorado 979/732-2082	June 14 - PM
Matagorda 979/245-4100	June 15 - AM
Jackson 361/782-3312	June 15 - AM
Victoria 361/575-4581	June 17 - PM
Austin 979/865-5911, ext. 170	June 18 - AM
Refugio 361/526-2825	June 24 - AM & PM