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# 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](http://www.tpma.org).

### Upper Coast IPM Program Sponsors

Danevang Farmers Coop      Farmers Coop of El Campo  
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Vanerbilt Gin

### Cotton Insect Situation

Growth stages of cotton in the Tri-County area of Wharton, Matagorda and Jackson Counties ranged from early bloom to one week past cutout.

**Aphid** numbers remained light during the past week. High numbers of lady beetles (adults and larvae) have contributed significantly to reducing numbers.

Live **boll weevil** and punctured squares were found in 3% of the fields that were monitored during the past week.

**Bollworm/budworm** numbers were extremely low. All fields monitored during the week were well below the threshold levels that would warrant an insecticide treatment for control.

**Brown stink bugs (BSB)** were more prevalent in fields during the week. BSB were found in 17% of fields. Feeding on bolls by stink bugs may cause shed and/or seed damage, lint staining and yield reductions. Stink bugs can damage bolls that are less than 22-24 days old or have not reached 450 heat units. Examine 6 row feet of cotton in several locations in the field. When there is an average of one or more stink bugs per 6 feet of row, feeding can cause excessive yield loss and may stain lint. To determine the number of stink bugs per six feet of row, the drop or ground cloth method works good in years when cotton is short in stature. Stink bugs are often clumped near field margins. Spot treatment provides effective control when this situation exists. Second through fifth instar stink bug nymphs and adults can damage bolls. Fourth and fifth instars can cause the same level of damage as adults.

Research and field trials have shown that pyrethroids are not as effective on brown stink bugs when compared to their control of southern green stink bugs. Suggested insecticides for managing brown stink bugs in cotton include Bidrin 8E, Vydate 3.77 C-LV, and Orthene 90S or 97.

**Other cotton insect pests** that were found in very low numbers included saltmarsh caterpillar, spider mites, square borer, and beet armyworm.

**Beneficial predator and parasite** populations increased during the past week to .29 beneficials per 2 plant terminals. Most prevalent beneficial insect continues to be lady beetles.

### Did You Know

(How the development of the cotton gin came about.)

In 1793, Eli Whitney, a native of Westboro, Massachusetts and newly graduated from Yale, accepted a teaching position in South Carolina. A mis-communication regarding the availability of the position he sought and a chance encounter with the widow of General Nathaniel Green introduced young

Whitney to plantation life in Georgia, cotton production, the economic plight of the southern farmer and the need for a machine capable of the processing upland cotton. Whitney received a patent on a machine to gin cotton on March 14, 1794. (Source: Weeds of Cotton, The Cotton Foundation, number two of the reference book series)