

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

SOUTHERN BLACKLANDS

# *PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS*

WILLIAMSON AND MILAM COUNTIES

VOL XXIII NO. 9

June 19, 2003

Dale A. Mott  
EA-IPM  
3151 S.E. InnerLoop  
Suite A  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
Office Phone: 512/943-3300  
FAX: 512/943-3301  
Internet  
Address: <http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu/>  
<http://www.tpma.org>  
E-mail: d-mott@tamu.edu

## GENERAL SITUATION

Widespread rains fell across the Southern Blacklands late last week delivering between 0.6 to 2 inches of rain. This added moisture continues to benefit much of the corn, especially the later planted fields and also grain sorghum. The cotton is utilizing the fertilizer, and as a result putting on excellent growth and fruit load.

## SORGHUM INSECTS

**Sorghum midge** is being found in some fields of flowering grain sorghum, however their levels remain low thus far. Midge numbers are averaging from 0-5 per 100 heads. The numbers are expected to continue to increase as long as sorghum is in bloom. **Any blooming sorghum from this point on needs to be actively monitored for midge, to ensure economic levels do not develop.**

**Stink bug** levels have decreased over the past two weeks in sorghum. They were not very high earlier and have decreased in numbers since then.

**Headworm** is a pest that growers need to continue to monitor for. Levels range from 0- 4 per 100 heads. However, with the levels of moths that were caught in bollworm traps last week, there was a fairly high population of moths moving around that would have the potential to lay eggs in sorghum.

## COTTON

Cotton ranges from 1-2 true leaves to second week of bloom. **Thrips** are still being found in fields on the small cotton and will need to be monitored as some of the replanted cotton develops.

**Cotton fleahopper** levels range from 0-18 per 100 terminals with most fields averaging between 6-12 per 100 terminals. Square set is generally averaging over 80%. A small percentage of fields

required an insecticide treatment for fleahoppers last week, and even fewer fields are requiring treatment this week.

**Aphids** remain at low levels, and where present, are generally higher in small parts of fields and not present in the remainder. Continue to watch closely aphid levels, especially fields that have recently been sprayed with an insecticide other than neo-nicitinoid products (ie, Centric, Intruder, Trimax).

**Beneficial** levels are very erratic, with some fields having moderate levels of lady beetles, lacewings, scymnus, big-eyed bugs, spiders and others and some fields have very low numbers of these insects.

**Bollworm/Budworm** numbers are light with a few exceptions where some worms are being found in conventional cotton. Egg counts range from 0-4 per 100 plants checked and worms range from 0-2 per 100 plants except in a few fields where they are upwards to 10 per 100 plants. Damage square counts are low as well in most fields. Some producers have been concerned with the shedding of 1-2 day old bolls recently. In some fields these small bolls, often with the bloom petals still attached are being found on the ground or falls off at the slightest touch when inspecting the cotton. However, as the week is progressing, there does not appear to be any additional shed of recently formed bolls. This abortion of the small bolls is apparently a result of the recent rainfall which probably prevented the bolls from successfully pollinating. Bollworm moths are being found in high levels. Anyone walking through fields of corn, sorghum, cotton or ditches that have various weeds can find noticeable levels of these insects just about everywhere.

**Boll Weevil** punctured squares began being found in some fields late last week. The punctures are being found in isolated areas of a small number of fields. It would be a good practice to let the eradication foundation know of any fields where punctured squares have been found. This can alert them to areas they may need to pay special attention to.

**CROP TOURS**

**Milam County Crops Tour**

June 23 at 8:30 am  
Milam County Courthouse

**Williamson County Crops Tours**

June 24 at 8:30 am  
Stiles Farm Headquarters

**WEEKLY TURNROW MEETINGS**

Weekly scheduled locations where the EA-IPM agent will be available at the specific day, time and location to visit and assist with pest management and other row crop related questions.

Wednesday	8:00 am	Blackland Gin
Thursday	8:30 am	Thorndale COOP
	11:00 am	Williamson County Grain

.....  
THE INFORMATION GIVEN HEREIN IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. REFERENCES TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS OR TRADE NAMES ARE MADE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NO DISCRIMINATION IS INTENDED AND NO ENDORSEMENT BY THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IS IMPLIED.