

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
SOUTHERN BLACKLANDS
PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS
WILLIAMSON AND MILAM COUNTIES

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GENERAL SITUATION

Parts of the Southern Blacklands received some much wanted rainfall last Thursday afternoon, July 7, mostly in the form of isolated thunderstorms. It was good to get the rainfall, however accompanying the storms was some high wind which caused moderate to severe lodging of some corn and sorghum in Eastern Williamson and Southwestern Milam County. At this point, there is only a little percentage of late grain that can still be helped by rainfall, however, there is still some fairly young cotton (the youngest is just beginning to bloom) that can still benefit from additional rainfall. Rainfall accumulations for the most part were less than 0.2 inches except in those areas pervious mentioned where some isolated areas received up to 2.0 inches.

COTTON

Cotton ranges from first bloom to fields that have mature bolls. Much of the earliest planted cotton has virtually completed blooming, and only has to mature out bolls. The majority of the rest of the cotton is about 10 days from blooming out of the top.

The limited rainfall was helpful if for nothing else but to wash off the honeydew that was fairly uniform across most fields as a result of **aphid** populations from earlier in the season.

Over the past week, aphid levels have decreased in fields where they were moderate and have stayed low in the rest of the cotton.

Good levels of **beneficials** can be found in more fields of cotton this week with lady beetles, minute pirate bugs, and green lacewings being the most numerous.

In addition to aphid levels decreasing over the past week, spider mite levels have also decreased. I do not know if the rainfall late last week has contributed to this decrease or not, but it appears to be a good possibility. In addition to the rainfall, beneficials were showing up in higher levels as last week progressed, thus potentially providing some mite reduction.

Cotton bollworm activity has picked up in some areas over the past week, especially in the fields of later planted cotton that receive more of the rainfall in eastern Williamson and Southwestern Milam County. Egg counts range from 0-24 per 100 plants. Worm counts are ranging from 0-14 per 100 plants checked.

Generally speaking, higher levels of worms may be tolerated the later into the season we get, depending on fruit load and soil moisture availability.

Beet armyworms continue to show up in many fields this week. More BAW “hits” are being found in the younger cotton as compared to the fields that have mostly mature bolls. Continue to monitor the fields of younger cotton for new “hits”, worms, and signs of worm damage.

Signs of boll weevils and/or damage remained non-existent this week.

Williamson County Boll Weevil Trapline		
Week Ending	2004	2005
6/20	1	1
6/27	0	2
7/4	0	0

In the June 30 edition of the “Southern Blacklands Pest Management News”, I reported on results from the adult cotton bollworm moth pyrethroid resistance vial test that we conducted on June 21. Resistance that time was fairly minimal. We ran another trial on July 7 and the results have changed. Here is the conclusion from our results from July 7. “The situation is worsening in Williamson County, with significant resistance ratios both for the LC₅₀ and the LC₉₀; **according to the results of the vial assay, this is a resistant population.** Ideally pyrethroid use FREQUENCY should be reduced in the overall area (Target less number of total pyrethroid applications but at high label rate).”

“In terms of field management, if pyrethroids are used it should be at the high recommended label rate. Results indicate that in the field there is a possibility of about 30% escape of insects if

