

Texas Cooperative Extension

Partners with Nature

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about Integrated Pest Management in Hockley and
Cochran Counties

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Crop and Insect Situation - Cotton, peanuts, sorghum
Drip Irrigation Meeting

CROP & INSECT SITUATION

Recent rains which fell in most portions of Hockley County and Cochran County should make decisions on any further irrigation much easier. Drip irrigated fields will be a case by case situation. Depending on the maturity of a field, the temperatures we receive this week, and what the forecast for the next 14 days holds will be important. Just do not error on the side of too wet. This will cause more vegetative growth, make harvestable bolls vulnerable to insects longer, and delay maturity. Call if you need help bouncing off some thoughts about what to do.

Many questions continue to come in about growth regulators. As with watering one must take into consideration many variables which are too numerous to go through all the possible scenarios. So yes, I have made many recommendations for growth regulators on cotton the past month and will continue probably for awhile longer. I would prefer you just call me and we can visit.

A majority of the cotton crop in Hockley and Cochran counties has an average of 2.6 nodes above white flower (NAWF) with a range of 0-7 NAWF. Based on actual heat unit accumulations, from our own National Weather Service observer data, we have been averaging only about 13 heat units per day the last 12 days. We should be in the 18-20 heat units per day neighborhood. Therefore, instead of the plant maturing from one node to the next along the main stem every 3 days it takes say 5 days. In other words if the 16th node is blooming today it will take 60 more heat units for the 17th node to bloom. If you are racking up 20 HU per day that

is only 3 days. If you are only at 10 HU per day like what we have been receiving than this progress takes maybe 6 days. This is also dependent on solar quality. Cloudy days have been slowing the process as well. I also want to remind you that we are at or very near the period of time when the likelihood of a bloom developing into a harvestable boll is a very low.

HEAT UNITS (DD 60's)

for Levelland Area

May 1st to Present 1615

May 15th to Present 1501

June 1st to Present 1261

Cotton bollworms still have not developed into a threat. Although reports to the south of us have reported some activity and some local fields have pushed to near 3,000 small worms per acre we still have not found treatable levels of cotton bollworms. Do not let this lull you into complacency. Conditions weather wise and crop wise are very ripe for problems. So keep scouting, especially those fields with more than 4 nodes above white flower. Fields which are "bolled out the top" will not be as attractive to egg laying moths.

Cotton aphids continue to be found. Most all fields continue to hold at low numbers with beneficial insects remaining about the same.

PEANUTS

Keep close watch for late leaf spot and rots to pods. The weather is conducive for concern to prevent these problems.

SORGHUM

Sorghum pests have been relatively light on early- planted milo, more activity has been noted in late-planted milo. Continue to check for headworms, greenbugs, and midge. Beneficials remain fairly high.

REMEMBER

This is a good time of year to sample soil for nematodes. This can help with next year's decisions about at -plant nematicides.

COCHRAN/YOAKUM
Drip Irrigation Meeting
September 1, 2004

8:00-8:10 Welcome Jeff Wyatt

8:10-8:40 Growing season progress, Varieties, End of season management
Randy Boman

8:40-9:10 Management of irrigation Dana Porter

9:10-9:30 Scouting report, etc. Kerry Siders

9:30-10:00 Alternative crops over drip, Small grain forages Calvin Trostle

2 CEU's available

Breakfast provided by the Cochran Ag Committee

Directions:

From stop light in Morton-

Go North .7 mi to CR74 (paved)-

Turn East and go .5 mi to drip house on South side of road.

Eric Silhan Farm

UP COMING EVENTS

September 1st - Drip Irrigation Meeting, Morton

September 7th - West Texas Ag Chem Conference, Lubbock

September 8th - Ag Industries Conference - Lubbock

September 14th - Farm Fair Cochran County, Morton

September 21st - Cotton Harvest Aid Meeting, Smyer

Other Harvest Aid Meetings to be announced.

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