

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about Integrated Pest Management in Hockley and Cochran Counties

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- * Subscribe to *West Plains IPM Update*
- * Current Situation
- * Field Scout School
- * Pest Management Principles
- * IPM Scouting Program
- * Thoughts On My Mind
- * Youth Ag Education
- * Worker Protection Standard

2003 *West Plains IPM Update*

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE is a newsletter which provides news of insect, weed and disease pests, and crop management suggestions for Cochran and Hockley Counties. The newsletter is written weekly during the growing season, from June through September. The newsletter will keep you abreast of current pest activity, natural enemies, biological and cultural control tactics, and chemical control options. The newsletter will cover cotton and other major crops grown in Hockley and Cochran counties during 2003.

You will have four options to obtain the newsletter:

#1 Paper Copy for Fee

If you are interested in receiving a paper copy of this newsletter by mail during 2003, please send \$10 and the subscription form to:

Kerry Siders, EA-IPM
1212 Houston St., Suite 2
Levelland, TX 79336

Checks payable to: WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

#2 Free E-Mail Newsletter

We can e-mail you an electronic version if you provide

us with your e-mail address on the subscription form or e-mail me at ksiders@tamu.edu, no cost.

#3 Free Internet Newsletter

The newsletter can be obtained, no charge, on the web sites: <http://hockley-tx.tamu.edu> ,
<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/ipm> or www.tpma.org

#4 Free Fax Newsletter

We can fax you a copy of the newsletter free if you will just provide us with your fax number on the subscription form.

CURRENT SITUATION

Needless to say it is extremely dry at the soil surface and highly variable in the top foot of the soil profile. Depending on irrigation system and how much water has been applied to-date it has been difficult to maintain planting moisture on irrigated acres. Dryland acres are powder keg dry generally down to the 10-14 inch depth. Winds are the norm this time of year, but have seemed to be exceptionally strong and long in duration this year. Soil temperatures are definitely not a concern at this point. Peanuts are mostly all planted with some acres up.

I have seen a couple of hundred acres of cotton up on Friday, May 9th. Planting has been delayed primarily in hopes that the rains would come. Many producers have no choice but to get started now since it will take them a month to finish up.

Without mentioning too many names of

cotton varieties suffice it to say that some of the “picker types” need to be going in the ground pretty soon if not already. Not that these varieties require anymore heat units than a conventional stripper variety; it is just the fact they do not need to be late. These varieties are not as storm proof as most strippers.

Thrips continue to be felt while working outside and their threat to seedling cotton is still a concern. The numerous millers and moths which most homeowners have noted are primarily cutworms. They are of little concern to our crops. Have had a few grasshopper calls at the end of last week.

FIELD SCOUT SCHOOL

A training session for those interested in learning more about field scouting will be held Thursday, May 29th, at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview (on Business I - 27, just south of town). The scout school will begin with registration at 8 a.m. This program will offer training in pest identification & scouting procedures. CEU's for TDA Pesticide Applicators and Worker Protection Standard Training will be provided as well. For more information, please contact me at 894-2406.

HIGH PLAINS CROP PEST SCOUTING WORKSHOP

Ollie Liner Center
Plainview, TX
Thursday, May 29, 2003

8:00 - 8:20	Visit Displays
8:20 - 8:30	Introduction & CEU Instruction
8:30 - 9:10	Cotton Growth and Development Dr. Randy Boman, Extension Agronomist - Cotton
9:10 - 9:35	Recognition, Biology and Scouting for Thrips, Aphids and Boll Weevils in Cotton Scot Russell, Ext. Agent - IPM
9:35 - 10:00	Recognition, Biology and

**Scouting for Lygus and
Fleahoppers in Cotton
Steve Davis, Ext. Agent - IPM**

10:00 - 10:15	Break - View Insect Specimens
10:15 - 10:40	Recognition, Biology and Scouting for Bollworms and Other Leps. In Cotton Emilio Nino, Ext. Agent - IPM
10:40 - 11:05	Recognition and Biology of Beneficials Associated with Crops. Monti Vandiver, Ext. Agent-IPM
11:05 - 12:00	Worker Protection Standards - Pesticides Handler Cards Issued James Esty, TDA, Lubbock
12:00 - 1:10	Lunch
1:10 - 1:40	Common Weed Identification and Recognition of Herbicide Injury Dr. Peter Dotray, Ext Weed Spec.
1:40 - 2:05	Sorghum and Corn Growth and Development Dr. Calvin Trostle, Agronomist
2:05 - 2:45	Corn Insect Pest Recognition and Detection Pat Porter, Ext. Entomologist
2:45 - 2:55	Break - View Insect Specimens
2:55 - 3:30	Sorghum Insect Pest Recognition and Detection Greg Cronholm, Ext Agent - IPM
3:30 - 4:05	Sunflower and Soybean Pests Robert Bowling, Ext Agent - IPM
4:05 - 4:35	Recognition of Plant Diseases in Cotton, Corn and Sorghum Dr. Harold Kaufman, Ext Plant Pathologist, Lubbock

Pest Management Principles

The term "pest management" applies to a philosophy used in the design of insect, mite, disease and weed pest control programs. It encourages the use of the most compatible and ecologically sound combination of available pest suppression techniques. These management techniques include: cultural control, such as manipulation of planting

dates and stalk destruction; crop management practices, such as variety selection and timing of irrigation; biological control, involving conservation of existing natural enemies; host plant resistance; and the wise use of selective insecticides and rates to keep pest populations below economically damaging levels.

Major factors to be considered when using insecticides include protecting natural enemies of cotton pests, possible resurgence of primary pests, increased numbers of secondary pests following applications and pest resistance to insecticides. Therefore, insecticides should be applied at the proper rates and used only when necessary, as determined by frequent field inspections, to prevent economic losses from damaging pests.

The pest management concept rests on the assumption that pests will be present to some degree in a production system, and that at some levels they may not cause significant losses in production. The first line of defense against pests is prevention through the use of good agronomic practices or cultural methods which are unfavorable for the development of pest problems. Properly selected control measures should be taken only when pest populations reach levels at which crop damage suffered could result in losses greater than the cost of the treatment. This potentially injurious population or plant damage level, determined through regular field scouting activities, is called an economic threshold or action level. Precise timing and execution of each production operation is essential. In short, pest management strives to optimize rather than maximize pest control efforts.

Hockley and Cochran IPM Scouting Program

1. **Field Scouting for insect, weed, and disease pests in cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum, sunflowers, etc.**
2. **Weekly to 3-4 day scheduling intervals.**
3. **Individual field pest report provided.**
4. **Management suggestions with emphasis on proactive IPM methods.**
5. **Management suggestions available upon request for irrigation, harvest aids, and other agronomic considerations.**
6. **Fall soil sampling for cotton root-knot nematode management suggestions.**
7. **Irrigated cotton or peanut scouting is \$5.25 per acre. Pricing for dryland and other crops available. Special services available for drip irrigated cotton, call for more information.**
8. **Prorated refunds of scouting fees for loss of crop due to natural causes.**
9. **Contact Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM for more information at 894-2406(office) or 638-5635(mobile).**

Thoughts On My Mind

- * Sprayer calibration will ensure proper rate of crop protection chemicals, good coverage, management/control of the pest, and efficient use of input cost.
- * Remember the goal of protecting crops from pests (weeds, insects & disease) is to limit yield loss, not to increase yields.
- * The use of Roundup Ready is no substitute for a good base herbicide program consisting of a preplant incorporated and at-plant preemergence herbicides.
- * The use of Bollgard does not excuse you from checking your crop for worms on a weekly basis.
- * The advice of a professional consultant on a weekly basis is even that much more important in time of economic concern and maximizing necessary production inputs.

EDUCATION

The future of agriculture, our local economies, and general welfare of our society, is dependent on the youth of today. In Hockley & Cochran Counties, Texas Cooperative Extension is taking a proactive approach by providing critical knowledge and experiences to youth to better understand and appreciate these agrarian values. Our agricultural related educational activities for youth include:

- ★ *the **Agriculture Awareness Day** for 4th grade students annually focuses on the importance of agriculture to our lives. School children attend the day with their teachers and learn about crops, animals, natural resources and technology in a fun, hands-on environment. The day is supplemented by curriculum taught in their classrooms. Reached 250 youth in the fall of 2001*
- ★ *the **Petting Zoo** is for Pre-K through 3rd grade classes and teaches students what farm animals look, touch and smell like as well as the food and consumer products which come from these animals. Reached 1000 youth in the fall of 2001*
- ★ *the **Farm Safety Day Camp** teaches youth ages 4 to 10 annually about the importance of being safe around the farm and home. The camp is held on a Saturday with centers for the students to learn about each safety issue. A few of the safety topics include: animal, electricity, 911 emergencies, gun and harmful chemicals. Reached 100 youth in the spring of 2001.*

If you are interested in helping with or financially supporting these activities please contact us. Please do not hesitate to contact Hockley County Agents, Chris Edens, Marsha Blair, and Kerry Siders or Cochran County Agent, Jeff Wyatt, if you have any questions or need more information about these events.

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a set of federal regulations that applies to all pesticides used in agricultural plant production. If you employ any person to produce a plant or plant product for sale and apply any type of pesticide to that crop, WPS applies to you. The WPS requires you to protect your employees from pesticide exposure. It requires you to provide three basic types of protection: you must inform employees about exposure, protect employees from exposure, and mitigate pesticide exposures that employees might receive. The WPS requirements will appear in the "DIRECTIONS FOR USE" part of the pesticide label. For more detailed information, consult EPA publication 735-B-93-001 (GPO #055-000-0442-1) The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides — How to Comply: What Employers Need to Know, or call Texas Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Worker Protection Program, (512) 463-7717.

SUGGESTED WEB SITE

The following website is a new site developed by Dr. Tom Fuchs, Extension IPM Coordinator. It is an excellent site, check it out.

<http://txipmnet.tamu.edu/>

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas Cooperative Extension IPM Program in Hockley and Cochran Counties.

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ksiders@tamu.edu (E-mail),

<http://hockley-tx.tamu.edu> (County website)

www.tpma.org (TPMA website)

Worker Protection Standard

Educational programs conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension is implied.

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