



Pest Cast

The Row Crops IPM Newsletter for the LRGV, a cooperative project of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cotton & Grain Producers of the lower Rio Grande Valley

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Editor

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General Situation: Same ole same ole. Hot and dry. At this point in time, most growers are of the mind to not have it rain since grain sorghum and corn harvests are underway and bolls are beginning to open in dryland and some irrigated fields. Some rain would still be welcomed by many irrigated cotton producers, but the closer we get to the end of June, the less need for rain on cotton.

Cotton: Many fields of cotton had matured to the point that open bolls were fairly easy to spot across the Valley this week. Some defoliation will commence in a small number of fields by this weekend or sooner. Open boll counts ranged from nearly 70 percent in a couple to 0 in other dryland fields this week. Pest insect and mite issues in dryland fields were nearly nonexistent this week.

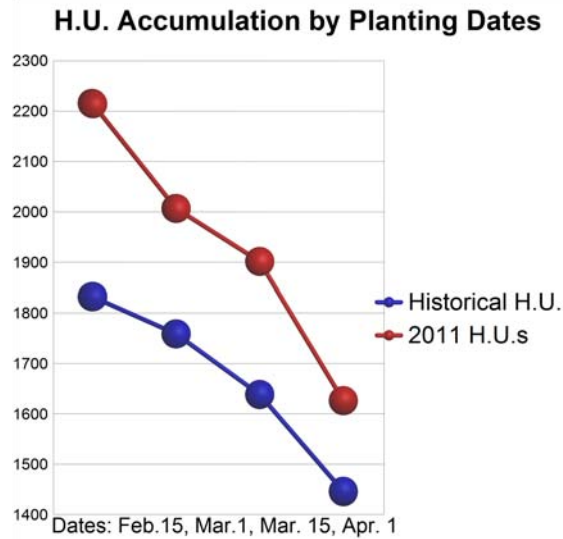
Many irrigated cotton fields were receiving the last irrigation for the season this week. A few later planted fields were likely to get one more irrigation before this season is finished. Open boll counts in irrigated fields ranged from 0 in most to less than 5 percent in others.

Mites were still being treated in a few fields this week. Most fields had no serious mite infestations. Verde bugs increased in some fields and were detected for the first time this week in a few others. Most fields west of the San Benito area had no reported Verde bugs this week. Whiteflies continued to be found in most fields, but most did not need an insecticide spray to manage them. Fleahoppers were again observed to be heavy in many fields with any squares or blooms left. If a field was very late planted then fleahoppers might be of concern to the yield.

Keeping in mind that any bloom this week will not likely be an open boll until about August 1, then late squares may be of value if the field will not be defoliated until after August 15. It takes about 45 days from bloom to open boll and about 70 days from pinhead square to open boll. It is getting late in the season for late squares to make harvestable bolls.

Speculation about the heat effects on cotton were in most conversations at gins and other producer gathering spots this year. We finally were able to put together heat unit data for 2011 and compared it to the average heat units from 2006 to 2010 (Historical H.U.) in the chart below. The only year to come close to 2011 heat unit levels was 2006 when heat and drought destroyed the dryland crop and limited the irrigated farms as well. But 2011 had accumulated heat units nearly 200 points higher than 2006 based on a February 15 planting date. To date, heat unit accumulations have not reached the traditional 2600-2800 heat units necessary for a two bale per acre crop on irrigated fields. However, general field observations indicate many irrigated fields are headed to potentially very good yields. The earliest planted fields, those in February and very

early March, suffered the most from high heat. Thank goodness for the rains in January and the few spots that received rain in May.



Grain Sorghum and Corn: Harvesting was hot and heavy this week. Dryland and irrigated sorghum fields were being harvested. Many fields were left to be harvested. Yields were reported as near county averages. Prices offered for this year’s crop were reported at about \$11.30 per hundred weight this week. Given the state of maturity of sorghum and corn, this will be the last report on those two crops.

LRGV

BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00243	.00729	.16795	.11150	.22048	.39439	1.20304

Week Ending	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/3/11	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.48544	0
4/10/11	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.37552	0
4/17/11	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.88875	6.47392
4/24/11	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
5/1/11	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/8/11	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/15/11	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/22/11	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
5/29/11	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931
6/05/11	.00244	.01018	.13857	.04752	.13497	1.0014	.82565
6/12/11	.00720	.00794	.17487	.11127	.03975	.46624	1.77066

Traps inspected for current week: 46,944

We thank the following sponsors of the Pest Cast newsletter for their very generous contributions toward this effort.

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