



Pest Cast

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

John W. Norman, Jr.
Editor

Volume XXXIV

Issue 14, July 13, 2012

GENERAL SITUATION: This week was slightly less hot (99 vs. 103) than last week. There were some scattered showers, but too scattered and way too late to make any difference in this season's crop yields, except where the rain was hard and heavy. Any significant rain now would jeopardize the last of the grain sorghum and possibly 95 percent of the cotton crop. Harvests of corn, grain sorghum continued and now cotton is underway.

***Texas AgriLife Research Farm Field Day
Hiler Farm Annex
Northeast of Weslaco***

There will be field day on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hiler Annex farm northeast of Weslaco. Hiler Farms is located north of Mercedes on Mile 2 West, three miles north of Expressway 83, about a quarter mile north of Mile 10 North. A cotton defoliation trial, the new fungicide for cotton root rot control and a multi-variety cotton trial, also now defoliated, will be on display with project leaders to discuss the trials and initial results. The defoliation trial was treated on Tuesday, July 10 and should be ready for viewing on the 17th. For more information contact the center at 956-968-5585, or Dr. Dan Fromme, Extension Agronomist, 361-265-9203.

COTTON: Many of the dryland fields were ready or near ready for defoliation by the end of this week. Considerable defoliation had already been conducted by late week and this past weekend. Some harvesting was completed in a few fields by the end of last week. Many more dryland fields were ready by the end of this week for harvest. Percent open boll counts ranged from 35 to 100 percent in dryland fields this week. The overall trend was about 50-70 percent open bolls.

Some irrigated fields were also ready for defoliation by the end of this week. Many more will be ready by next week. The hot weather was driving all fields toward a quicker finish and some growers were moving up schedules to accommodate earlier defoliation. Percent open boll counts in irrigated fields ranged from 0 to just over 70. Overall percent open bolls in irrigated fields was about 10 to 50 percent.



Whitefly produced honey dew.



Whitefly nymphs.

Pests of concern were primarily *whiteflies* and *Verde bugs*. The only changes in whiteflies seemed to be in the increasing numbers in all fields. As this season starts toward the final round up, the only whitefly control of interest for many growers is defoliants. Most fields which had early and thorough coverage with the proper insecticides have had less whitefly issues than others. However, as this season has progressed, re-infestation by extreme numbers of whiteflies moving from other crops and now matured cotton fields has led to some serious consideration about how much more money can be put into whitefly control and how much benefit there will be.

Late season increases in whiteflies have been encountered before in the Valley. Just like those other “whitefly years” cotton fields which have few if any small bolls remaining to mature may not benefit from continued high dollar shots of insecticide for whitefly control. But, if your crop still has a large percent of the crop in smaller bolls, then continued insecticide application may be in order. Crunching the numbers on costs and possible returns needs to be done to decide how much more can be invested.



Leaf-footed bug in cotton.

Lately, another occasional pest, *leaf-footed bugs* have begun to be reported. Though not a major pest in cotton, leaf-footed bugs have sometimes required treatment in scattered fields in past seasons. This pest should be treated as you would other plant bugs such as Verde bugs. Check the fields which are susceptible and treat when large squares and small bolls are damaged. Fortunately, leaf-footed bugs have not invaded cotton in huge numbers and are not like whiteflies which never seem to stop coming. But, they do need to be monitored just in case.

Heat Units (H.U.) as shown are calculated from the dates of planting shown in the left column

Planting Dates	2012 H.U.s	Historical H.U.s
2/15	2958.5	2614.4
3/1	2747.0	2512.5
3/15	2643.5	2397.3
4/1	2371.0	2193.1

LRGV**BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION**

YTD	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.01466	.01115	.00914	.14692	.17669	.22885	.76497	5.97293

Week Ending	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/1/12	.03353	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.48544	0
4/8/12	.01617	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.37552	0
4/15/12	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.88875	6.47392
4/22/12	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
4/29/12	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/6/12	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/13/12	.00055	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/20/12	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
5/27/12	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.17113	.09204	.72057
6/3/12	.00339	.00244	.01018	.13857	.04752	.13497	1.00114	.82565
6/10/12	.00281	.00720	.00794	.17487	.11127	.03975	.46624	1.77066
6/17/12	.01212	.00556	.00766	.06249	.13535	.17113	.09204	.72057
6/24/12	.00935	.00570	.01430	.03580	.49846	.12318	.32430	6.85560
7/1/12	.05315	.05716	.01456	.13756	.30683	.16200	2.17874	7.73737
7/8/12	.05972	.10697	.03933	.14793	1.63195	.59710	3.61197	22.70318

Traps inspected for current week: 31,901

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

Gold

- ✧ **Hidalgo County Farm Bureau**
- ✧ **Valley Co-Op Oil Mill**

- ✧ **Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association**
- ✧ **Wilbur-Ellis Company**

Silver

- ✧ **Dow Agrosiences**
- ✧ **Willamar Gin Co.**

- ✧ **RGV Gin Co.**

Bronze

- ✧ **Adams Farms**
- ✧ **Bennack Flying Service**
- ✧ **Farmers Crop Insurance**
- ✧ **Hargill Growers Gin**
- ✧ **La Feria Co-Op**
- ✧ **RGV Ag Science, Inc.**
- ✧ **Ross Gin Co. Ltd.**
- ✧ **Skalitsky Brothers Farm**

- ✧ **All-Tex Seed**
- ✧ **DuPont Agricultural Products**
- ✧ **Gulf Compress**
- ✧ **Helena Chemical**
- ✧ **Monsanto/DeltaPine**
- ✧ **Rio Grande Aviation**
- ✧ **Salazar Farms**
- ✧ **Texas AgFinance**

For details on sponsoring the Pest Cast Newsletter, please call Cotton and Grain Producers Executive Director, Webb Wallace, at 956-491-1793.

Contact Info

Pest Cast Newsletter
 Texas AgriLife Extension Service
 South District 12
 2401 East Highway 83
 Weslaco, TX 78596
 (956) 968-5581
 E-mail: d12south@ag.tamu.edu
<http://southtexas.tamu.edu>