

## Pest Cast

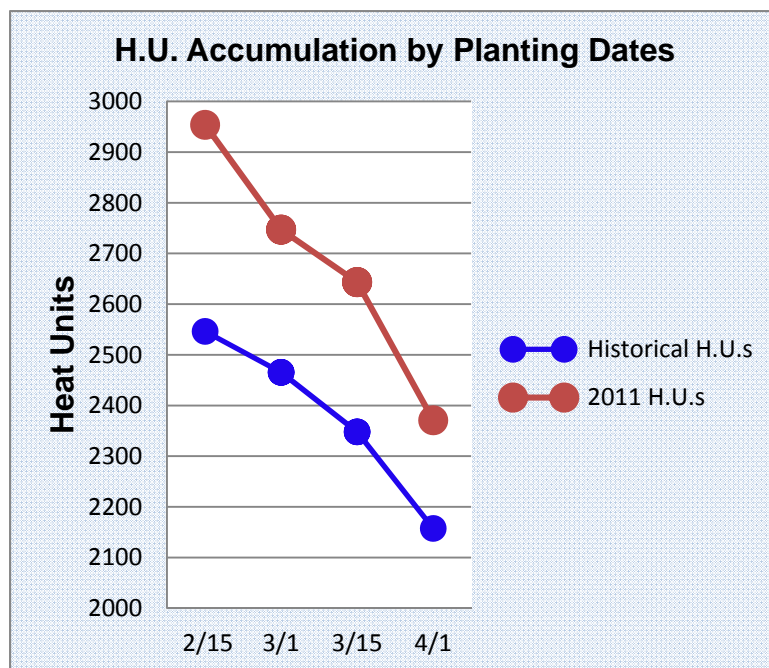
The Row Crops IPM Newsletter for the LRGV, a cooperative project of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cotton & Grain Producers of the lower Rio Grande Valley

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Editor

Volume XXXIII

Issue 16, July 15, 2011

**General Situation:** A hot and dry week was the story this week. Grain sorghum harvesting was about completed and major inroads on cotton defoliation were made this week. No rain in the immediate forecast was good news for cotton producers.



**Cotton:** The heat unit graph shown in this issue of *Pest Cast* shows that all of the planting dates except those after April 1<sup>st</sup> are within or beyond the 2600-2800 heat units necessary for 2 bales per acre. Obviously, not all fields are going to average 2 bales per acre, but at least the heat unit accumulation necessary for 2 bales has been achieved.

Many fields had defoliant applied this week. A few fields were harvested as of last weekend and many more were being harvested this week, especially in the dryland areas. Regrowth in all fields has been an ongoing issue of late. The recent rains and lowered

temperatures have provided cotton with the perfect conditions for growth. The plants have taken full advantage and regrown. Defoliation decisions will need to take into consideration regrowth issues. Two applications of defoliant may be necessary to get 95 percent of the leaves off due to the excess growth observed in all fields this week.

A number of later planted fields had bolls that still needed time to finish maturing. Some fields will need another two to three weeks of close pest monitoring and will not be ready for defoliation until about mid-August.

Pests to watch the closest for in cotton will be Verde bugs and whiteflies. Verde bugs were in lower numbers and whiteflies increased in some fields this week. Some of the fields which had reports of Verde bugs last week were sprayed and no finds of the bugs were reported this week. Whiteflies were higher in a number of fields, but, many of those fields were nearly ready for defoliation which means that whiteflies should not be a problem in those fields. A long-standing saying is that the best treatment for whiteflies is a defoliant application. That will be the case in

many fields within the next few days to the next couple of weeks. However, later planted fields still have time to be heavily infested by whiteflies and need to be monitored frequently

LRGV

**BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION**

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

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
6/19/11	.00556	.00766	.06249	.13535	.12318	.32430	6.8556
6/26/11	.00570	.01430	.03580	.49846	.13204	1.44546	14.96033
7/3/11	.05716	.01456	.13756	.30683	.16200	2.17874	7.73737
7/10/11	.10697	.03933	.14793	1.63195	.59710	3.61197	22.70318

Traps inspected for current week: 39,022

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

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