



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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General Situation

Hot, windy, and dry is the current weather status. Throughout the majority of the Valley this past week we had a couple of showers giving 1/10 inch to 6/10 inch. In parts of McCook they received anywhere from 1 to 2 inches. All crops continued to mature well.

Cotton

Cotton fruiting and maturing well this week with moderate pest pressure. In the Harlingen area one field was reported to have an increase in whiteflies averaging 5 to 6 per third leaf and was to be treated. Whiteflies were still making their presence known in lower Cameron but have not increased to be sprayed just yet. Aphids were reported in low to moderate numbers. East of Rio Hondo and in Brownsville red spidermites were reported to be in really high numbers with one field east of Rio Hondo being treated. Fleahoppers are still being reported scattered throughout valley fields with light square-blasting being observed. Verde bug nymphs were observed in a few fields east of Rio Hondo that were mainly next to pastures or brushland.

*Planted and hostable cotton acres in the LRGV, 2013.

District	Planted	Hostable
Harlingen	46,227.3	32,936.8
Monte Alto	4,903.2	3,276.2
Raymondville	36,258.1	4,132.7

*Information from LRGV Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program.

BEET ARMYWORM TRAPPING

Week Ending	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
3/24/13	0	0	10.2941	0	2.662
3/31/13	0	0	4.44	0	5.960
4/7/13	0	0	3.17949	0	29.80
4/14/13	36.0896	80.0556	10.7143	0	26.31
4/21/13	.15104	14.475	24.5417	0	25.36
4/28/13	24.0909	2.25349	14.6769	0	18.51
5/5/13	15.3864	1.84911	448.31	0	9.145
5/12/13	10.5846	39.1607	34.070	0	16.77
5/19/13	12.4815	39.6415	7.1518	0	22.34
5/26/13	7.56923	18.9565	61.142	1.333	6.509

Traps inspected for current week: 65

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00119	.00802	.00192	.00674	.17000	.11866	.24935	.31888	1.15456

Week Ending	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
3/24/13	.00096	.01617	.00056	.00691	.73856	.14043	.10683	.48544	0
3/31/13	.00435	.03353	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.37552	0
4/7/13	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/14/13	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/21/13	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
4/28/13	.00058	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/5/13	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/12/13	.00216	.00096	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/19/13	.00322	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
5/26/13	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931

Traps inspected for current week: **21,040**

Grain Sorghum



A lot of pest pressure in grain sorghum this week as it continues to mature. Across the Valley reports were coming in of fields being treated for headworms. The economic injury level for headworms in commercial sorghum is about 1 to 2 larvae per grain head which is what was being observed in many fields this week. Armyworms and corn earworms can be found eating on the green dough stage of the grain head shortly after blooming. When scouting for headworms first inspect the sorghum plants for frass on leaves and for frass on the ground between rows. Take a white bucket and beat the heads to dislodge the smaller inconspicuous larvae. To get a good idea of what's going on in your field make sure to beat at least 30 heads. Sorghum midge really spreading throughout the

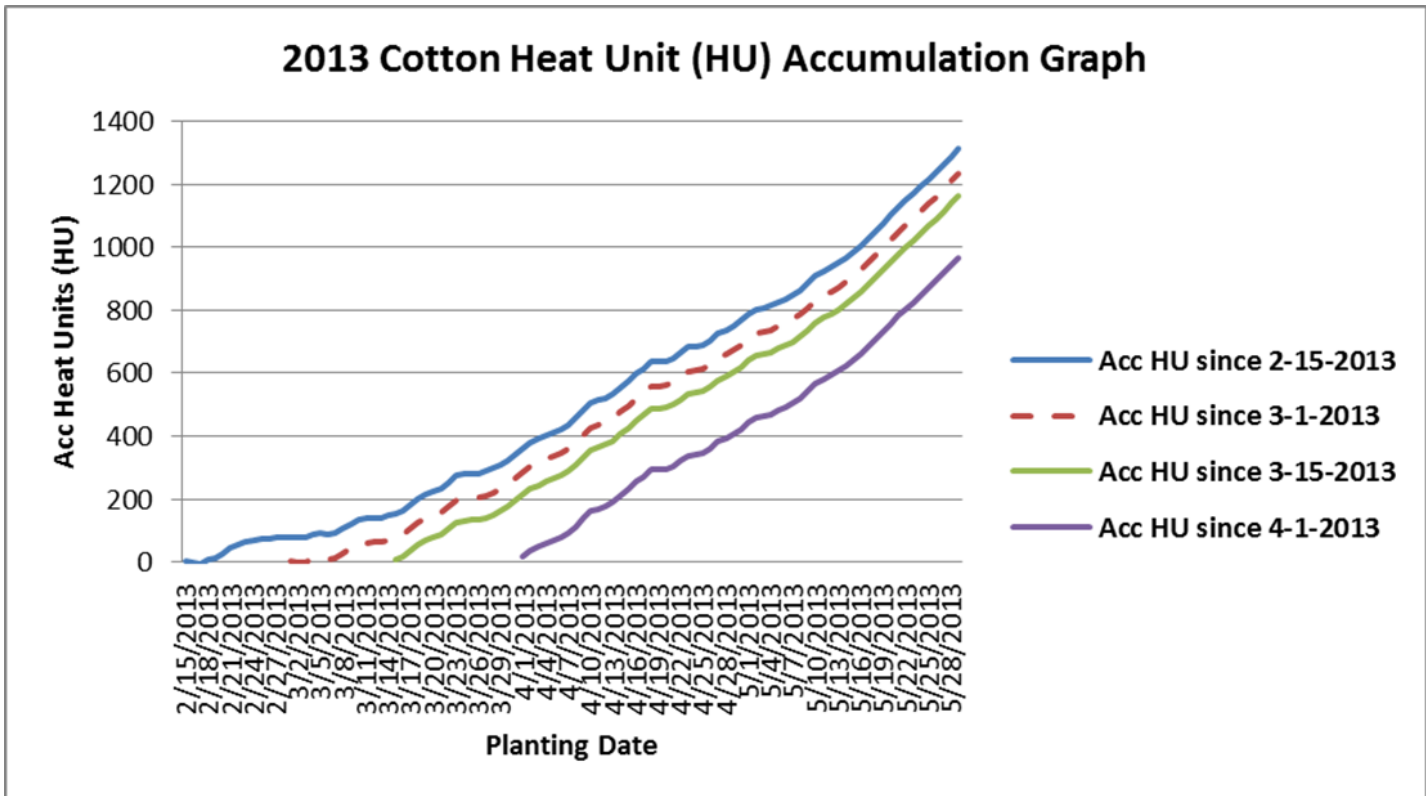


valley and up through southern Willacy. Pockets of rice stinkbug nymphs were also spotted in sorghum fields around the Bayview and Arroyo areas. In smaller, recently planted grain sorghum around Willacy, reports of increasing numbers of armyworms were seen feeding in the whorls and causing some damage. However, sorghum and corn can take what appears to be major damage in the whorl and yields are not usually affected. If the growing point in the sorghum is destroyed, that will stop the plant from making grain. It is a rare event when armyworms or corn earworms will damage sorghum to that extent.

Even severely hailed grain most of the time comes back to make a normal yielding crop. Finally, when trying to control worms in the whorl, getting insecticide down in the whorl is very difficult. The spray would have to be put on in very large volumes (over 20 gallons per acre) in order to reach the worms feeding in the whorl. Examination of some of the actual plants with worm damage should give a clue as to whether the worms are killing the sorghum growing point.

Corn

Corn is pretty clean this week from pest pressure as it continues to dry down.



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