



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

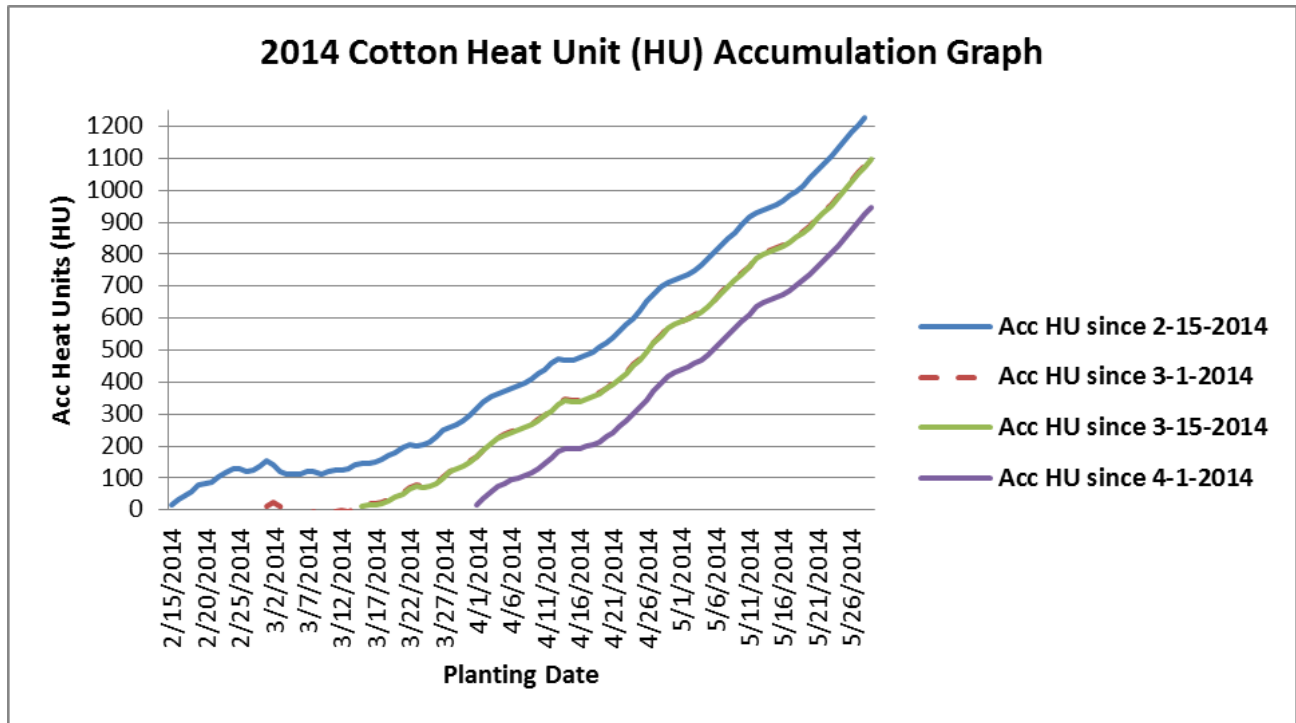
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General Situation

This week really heated up with temperatures in the low 90s during the day and in the night temperatures were in the upper 70s. We received a bit of rain on Wednesday in the afternoon. In Weslaco we received about 0.60 inches. Cameron, and Willacy counties got anywhere from a trace to 5 inches in some areas.



Cotton

In cotton this week most fields are in full blooming with cotton plants at about 12 nodes. The rain hit the cotton at a good time, since most fields had already had their second spray applications. Aphid populations have been seen decreasing this week, and red spidermites were noticed in a few fields before the rain. This week it we observed a lot of predators such as ladybug larvae, lacewing larvae, and syrid larvae as well feeding. Overall cotton was pretty clean this week and the crop continues to mature nicely.



Cotton Blooming

Grain Sorghum

In grain sorghum this week we continue to receive reports of high sugarcane aphid infestations in many fields. Many growers have been spraying; some having made their second application this past week. As you drive through the Valley you can really tell which sorghum fields have been infested badly from the sugarcane aphid by looking at the sorghum heads that look light in color (dehydrated) and do not have mature seed, more than likely these fields were not treated at all for the sugarcane aphid. Growers will need to continue to monitor their sorghum fields for sugarcane aphids to avoid damage. No sorghum midge problems were reported this week as we keep a look out for them during bloom. For information on the sugarcane aphid you can go to the link below.

<http://agriflife.org/stxborderinsects/sugarcane-aphids/>

Corn

In corn this week high numbers of leaf hoppers were observed in a Hidalgo County field. This is the first occurrence of this kind in corn in the LRGV. The field was treated and leaf hoppers were collected to identify the specific species. The species is unknown, pending identification.



Unidentified Leaf hopper in corn, and close up on top right corner

Sesame

Aphids pink in color were reported to be building up in some isolated sesame fields in the eastern portion of the Valley. The aphids are being sent for confirmation in identification. Although no treatment thresholds have been



established yet, if plants become sticky with honeydew and sooty mold is present treatment is probably warranted. Transform is labelled for sesame at 0.75 ounces per acre and should be expected to provide good control based on results on other aphid species in cotton and grain sorghum.

Sesame plant infested with pink aphids

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