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

Danielle Sekula
IPM Extension Agent

John W. Norman, Jr.
Editor

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General Situation

This week in the Valley continued to be very hot and dry. Sunday afternoon we had a few traces of rain throughout the Valley but nothing substantial. All crops continued to mature well with low pest pressure.

Cotton

Cotton continued to mature nicely and the later planted cotton seems to be catching up in plant height at 1 ½ ft- 2ft while early planted cotton is right at 3ft. Many cotton fields were being irrigated this week as bolls begin to mature and size up on lower half of cotton plants. Early planted cotton was already at 5 NAWF while the majority of cotton was at 7-8 NAWF.

Insect pressure this week was pretty low. However, it was whiteflies that were a concern this week. Whiteflies were seen in higher numbers this week with both adults and nymphs present so keep a close eye on whitefly in the field. Out in the Bayview and east Rio Hondo area there were reports of Verde plant bugs but none at numbers warranting treatment. In scattered areas throughout the Valley red spider mites were seen building up on cotton leaves. Low flea hopper and aphid counts were observed as populations were present but not increasing to damaging numbers throughout valley cotton fields.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

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Traps inspected for current week: 20,819

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Grain Sorghum

Grain sorghum maturing rapidly as heads start to turn red-orange in color. A couple of fields in the mid valley area were reportedly sprayed for midge this week. Midge could be seen in several fields as heads along the end of the field that were still flowering attracted hundreds of sorghum midges. In Willacy county there were 3 to 4 headworms per grain head being reported. In the younger 3 leaf stage grain sorghum armyworms were seen feeding on the emerging plants 1 per every 3 plants checked.

Corn

No insect pressure to report on corn this week as a few fields were dying up pretty good with a couple already starting to be harvested. Some seed corn harvesting was ongoing this week.

Highlights from Rio Farm Field Day

Yesterday at Rio Farms we were able to get a hands-on look at alternative row crops for down in deep south Texas. We were able to see different varieties of guar, sesame, southern pea, and sunflowers while learning from industry leaders about these crops in the field. While looking at the southern peas it was mentioned that they do well in sandy soils and can yield anywhere from 800-1200 lbs/acre. Guar was another crop that was observed that also does well in sandy soil conditions and has many industry uses. Another crop we got a hands-on look at as well was sesame. According to the Sesaco reps sesame is similar to cotton because it starts fruiting at nodes 6 and 7. They mentioned that early in sesame development armyworms and loopers can be a problem and whiteflies can be a problem later in the season. All in all it was a very informative and valuable field day with much info to take away.
We thank the following Sponsors of the Pest Cast newsletter for their very generous contributions toward this effort.

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2013 Cotton Heat Unit (HU) Accumulation Graph

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