



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 was a slow week. The weather is still about the same with temperatures increasing a little in the 90s, and at night in the low 70s. Insect pressure was lower this week in all crops. A trace of a rain shower was felt on Wednesday but nothing substantial.

Cotton

Cotton is putting on a good fruit load and continues to bloom at anywhere from 12-16 nodes per plant. A few fleahoppers are being seen in Hidalgo and Cameron counties while in Willacy County there have been reports of sprayable levels of fleahoppers. Spidermites were also at high levels in a few fields in Willacy County and are being treated. In eastern Willacy County low numbers of adult and nymph Verde bugs are starting to pop up in a few fields. In cotton fields along the river south of Donna, Bluetown, Weslaco and in the San Benito, Los Fresnos areas we are barely starting to see some whitefly adults emerged, about 1 per every 5 plants. It will be important these next two weeks to keep an eye out for increasing whitefly populations in cotton.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00114	.00119	.00802	.00192	.00674	.17000	.11866	.24935	.31888	1.15456

Week Endin	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/6/14	.00212	.00435	.03353	.00476	.00672	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/13/14	.00164	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/20/14	.00149	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/27/14	.00086	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
5/4/14	.00243	.00058	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/11/14	.00035	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/18/14	.00099	.00216	.00096	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/25/14	.00055	.00322	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
6/1/14	.00005	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931

Traps inspected for current week: 37,623

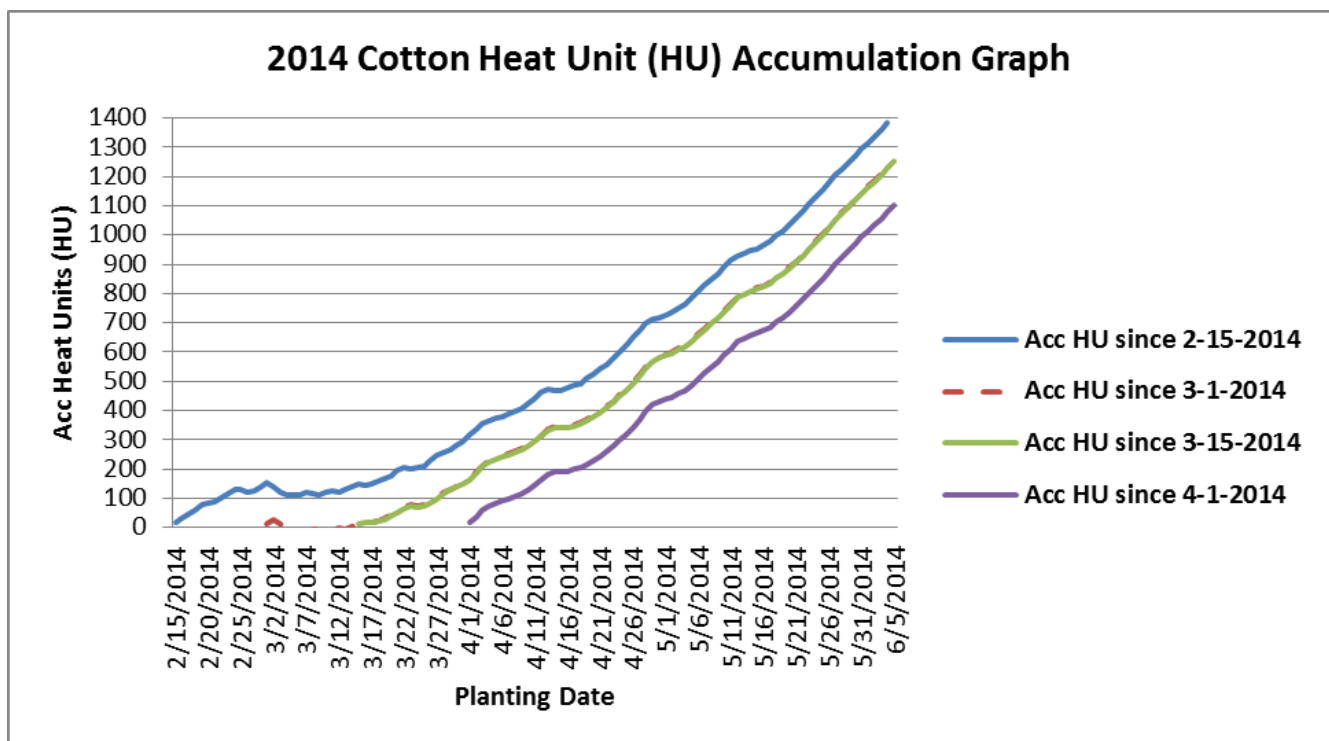
Grain Sorghum

In grain sorghum this week we noticed a crash in the sugarcane aphid populations in all counties. Similar decreases of SCA populations were observed in Tamaulipas-Mexico. Fields being monitored are looking clean of sugarcane aphids after having been sprayed. However there have been reports of a handful of severely damaged sorghum fields from sugarcane aphids in Cameron and Hidalgo counties that were more than likely not treated or treated too late. The majority of the sorghum throughout the Valley is maturing well and looking good. In the Mission area there was a report of false chinch bugs infesting the grain sorghum heads and the fields had to be treated.

Sugarcane aphid identification – Is it or is it not?

Ever since a new aphid was discovered in Texas last year colonizing and damaging grain sorghum there has been a question of what aphid species we were dealing with. Aphids suspected of being the sugarcane aphid, *Melanaphis sacchari*, were obtained recently by Dr. Scott Armstrong from Texas sorghum, from Florida sorghum and sugarcane, and from South African sorghum. Aphid DNA from each of the collections was compared and matched. So the question has been definitively answered. The aphid attacking Texas grain sorghum is the same one being seen in Florida on sorghum and sugarcane and it is the same one that infests grain sorghum and sugarcane in South Africa. We now feel very confident that we are correct when we call this aphid the sugarcane aphid. Dr. Armstrong is a USDA-ARS Entomologist from Stillwater, Oklahoma and had been working on analyzing the identity of the sugarcane aphid from the first time it was observed last year causing concern to growers.

*We will be holding a Sugarcane aphid Field Day on Thursday June 19th at the Weslaco Hoblitzelle Auditorium Texas AgriLife Research and Extension 2415 E. Hwy 83 Weslaco, TX 78596 from 8:30am to 10:30am. Sign will be from 8am to 8:30am. Come join us as we share new data on chemical trials we conducted research on this year.



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