



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

Another hot, humid, and sticky week in the Rio Grande Valley. Temperatures were about the same as the previous week. Harvesting began in grain sorghum this week as growers tried to work around rain showers here and there. In some areas there was rain received anywhere from a ½ inch to 3 inches over the last 3 days.

Cotton

Cotton is maturing well across the Valley and overall very little pest pressure this week. Cotton is at about 2 feet to 3 feet in height with many blooms higher in the canopy and really good fruit set as the bolls begin to mature. No open bolls have been seen yet, maybe in the next week in a half or so we will start to see some as heat units accumulate. Some cotton fields are receiving their second shot of mepiquat to control their vigorous growth. Many fields were still being irrigated again this week and out in Willacy hopefully some of the rain showers we had helped the dry land cotton. Some areas in Willacy County received 2 inches of rain. Fleahoppers were seen being present this week in high numbers but were of no concern since the cotton is so mature. In the Bayview area some fields were treated for Verde plant bugs this week. In all counties there are a few plantbugs present in the cotton but noting of significance yet. A few whitefly adults were seen in the cotton along the river and in cotton in Cameron County but the populations remain quite low and if they do not rapidly build up in the next 2 weeks they will not be a problem. A lot of predators were seen in the cotton fields this week as we picked up on many big eyed bugs, lace wings, pirate bugs and a few scymus beetles. As the grain sorghum is being harvested we will have to keep an eye out for Verde bugs migrating their way out of sorghum and into the cotton as the bolls will be ready to be fed on.

LRGVBOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00115	.00126	.00747	.00268	.00733	.15796	.11355	.21237	.38834	1.97565

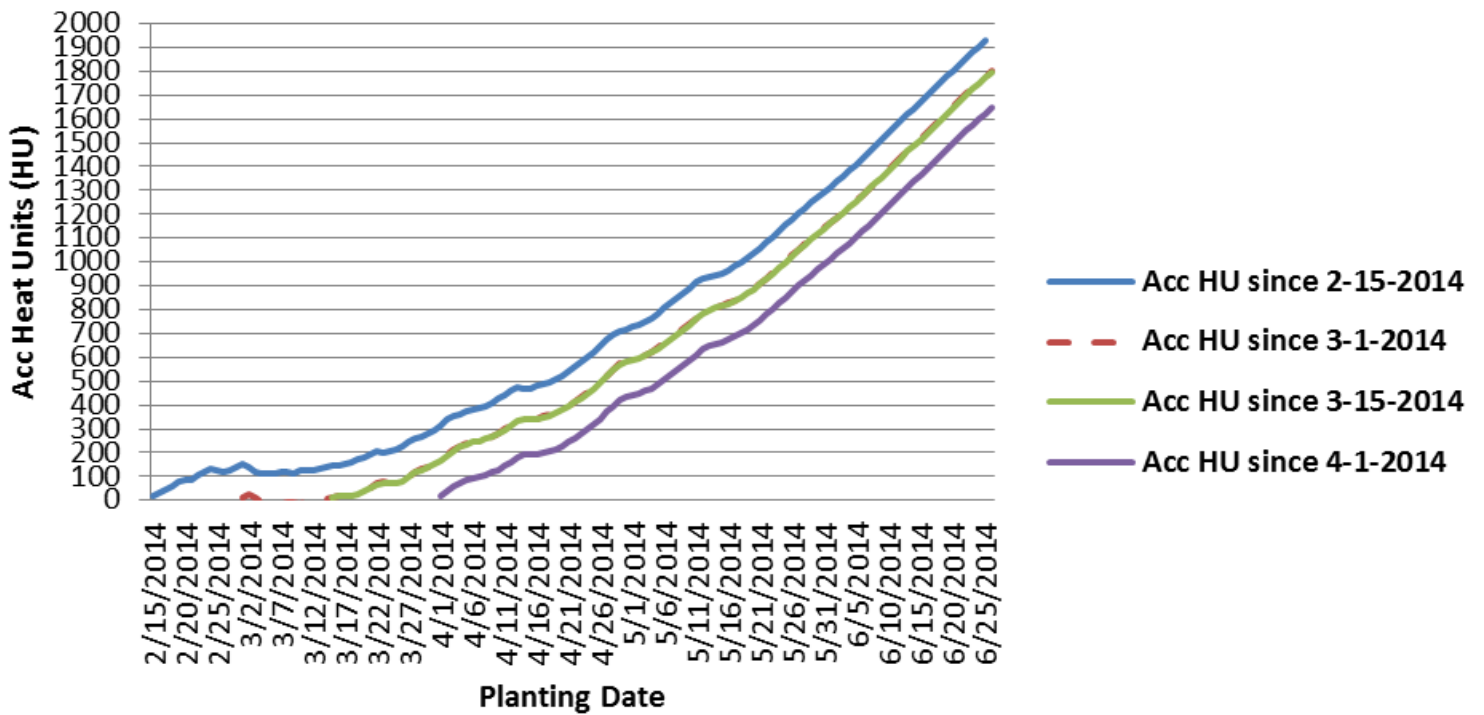
Week Ending	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
6/8/14	.00164	.00043	.00339	.00244	.01018	.13857	.04752	.13497	1.00114	.82565
6/15/14	.00107	.00107	.00281	.00720	.00794	.17487	.11127	.03975	.46624	1.77066
6/22/14	.00083	.00318	.01212	.00556	.00766	.06249	.13535	.12318	.32430	6.85560

Traps inspected for current week: 39,844

Grain Sorghum

Many grain sorghum fields were being harvested this week despite the rain showers. Others were drying up and having glyphosate applications applied. Some of the yields were already looking good averaging at 6,000 lbs. /acre. Despite the battle we had with the sugarcane aphid, majority of the Valley’s grain sorghum looks good and has produced good yields as we head into harvest. Of course there are a few fields that will probably not be harvested just because growers were not able to get into their fields and control sugarcane aphids or they were not aware.

2014 Cotton Heat Unit (HU) Accumulation Graph



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