



# 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

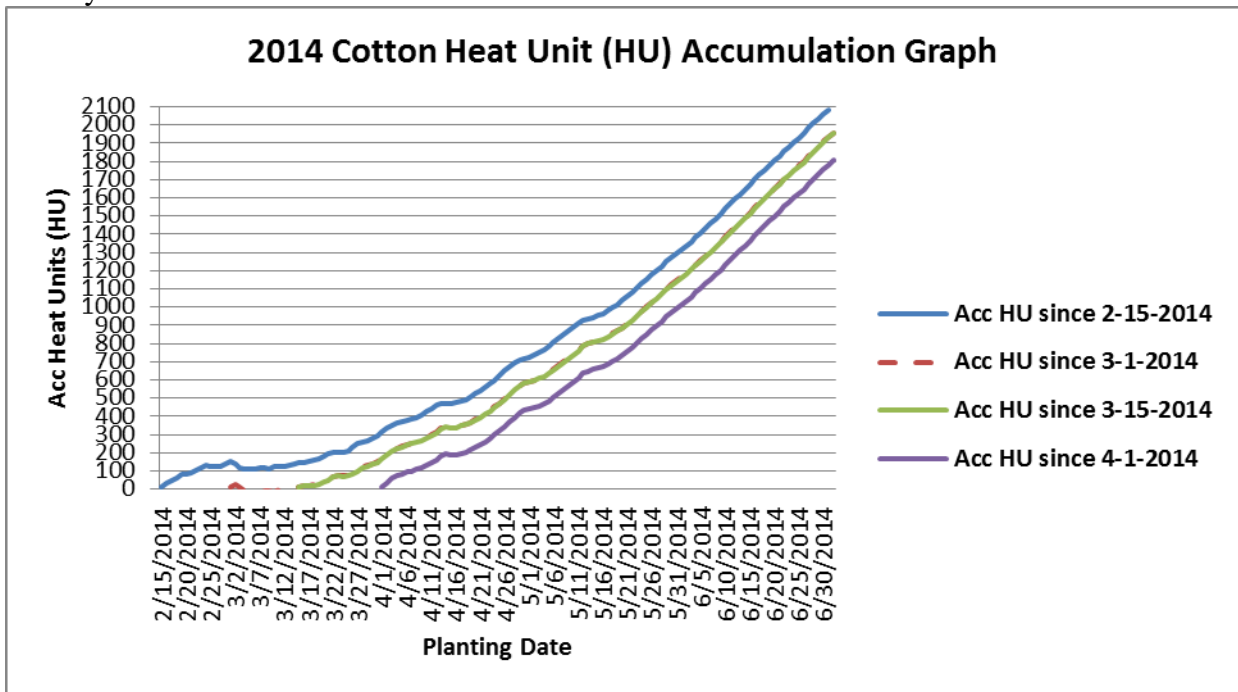
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## General Situation

Very hot and dry this week with a trace of showers that passed through Mercedes and Weslaco on Wednesday. Heat units are accumulating fast with both planting dates March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> having heat units relatively close at 1959 HU and 1955 HU.



## Cotton

Cotton is maturing well as this week we are seeing many more white blooms at the tops of the canopy as we reach cutoff. This week we observed the first open bolls in cotton. We noticed about 10% of open bolls in cotton fields around the Valley. The main pest of concern this week that was being observed feeding on cotton is the Verde plant bug, *Creontiades signatus*. Cotton fields east of Rio Hondo, in San Perlita and around the Willamar area were treated this week for Verde bugs. Verde bugs were also observed in fields along the river heading west but in very low numbers. Verde plant bug adults are about ¼ inch long in size and are light green in color with long antennae and red eyes. Verde plant bugs feed on squares and small to medium



Cotton with open bolls

sized bolls. Verde plant bugs will pierce the bolls with their mouth parts and damage can range from surface feeding to boll malformation to complete fruit loss.

**Grain Sorghum and Corn**

Harvest continues this week. Grain yields are averaging anywhere from 4500 lbs. to 6500 lbs. /acre. Both grain and corn fields are drying up and getting ready for harvest as we finish this season.



Adult Verde plant bug

**Thanks to everyone who supports the Pest Cast and our IPM Program...  
Have a Happy Fourth of July this weekend!**

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