



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

Several sea breeze showers came through the valley this week cooling things off a bit. Temperatures were in the mid 90's during the day and mid 70's during the night. Grain sorghum and corn continue to be harvested.

Cotton

Insect activity in cotton continues to be low as harvest time is right around the corner. Open boll counts in the majority of fields range from 0 to 30% open bolls. Dry land open boll counts were from 60-90% in most fields. Defoliant applications have already started being applied on some dry land and irrigated cotton fields.

Whitefly applications were still ongoing this past week in the Brownsville, La Feria area with a couple of fields in the Harlingen area treated. Whitefly numbers were increasing in other areas but populations remained low. As more cotton fields rapidly mature, defoliants will be control of choice for any remaining whiteflies.

A few fields in the Rio Hondo, Arroyo city areas were treated for verde plant bugs this week. Also observed this week were a few western leaf footed bugs in a field in the Harlingen area. Leaf footed bugs are not a major pest in cotton but can be a concern due to their potential to damage small bolls. Their feeding can cause the young bolls to drop from the plant. Leaf footed bug infestations can be treated using the same insecticides as would be used for verde plant bugs. Older, mature cotton heading towards defoliation in the next couple of weeks should be safe from harm from leaf footed bugs, stink bugs and plant bugs at this point.

Boll weevil captures for the year in total are down 88% compared to last year. Captures this week compared to last year at this time are down 91%.



Leaf footed bug

Grain Sorghum

Grain sorghum harvesting continues. Later planted sorghum in Willacy County was maturing well, with many fields in soft dough stage. It seems that grain sorghum head worm pressure has also tapered off as few worms are being seen in head worm counts. Midge has also declined rapidly. Currently only light numbers have been observed.

Guar



Achyra rantalis (garden webworm)



A couple of weeks ago we reported that a couple of species of worms were observed feeding on guar in the Lyford area. Since then the worms have been identified at Texas A&M as *Achyra rantalis*, the garden webworm and *Spodoptera frugiperda*, the fall armyworm. Garden webworm occurs throughout the eastern US and parts of California but is mainly damaging in southern high plains where it shares many habitats with beet and alfalfa webworms. The larvae are yellow to light green in color with distinctive dark spots and a yellowish head. They feed on several vegetables and weeds (pigweed) skeletonizing the leaves. Garden webworms produce webbing that they use to tie the leaves together to create a loose shelter.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00178	.01466	.01115	.00914	.14692	.17669	.22885	.76497	5.97293

Week Ending	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
3/24/13	.00096	.01617	.00056	.00691	.73856	.14043	.10683	.48544	0
3/31/13	.00435	.03353	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.37552	0
4/7/13	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/14/13	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/21/13	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
4/28/13	.00058	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/5/13	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/12/13	.00216	.00096	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/19/13	.00322	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319
5/26/13	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931
6/2/13	.00043	.00339	.00244	.01018	.13857	.04752	.13497	1.00114	.82565
6/9/13	.00107	.00281	.00720	.00794	.17487	.11127	.03975	.46624	1.77066
6/16/13	.00318	.01212	.00556	.00766	.06249	.13535	.12318	.32430	6.85560
6/23/13	.00227	.00935	.00570	.1430	.03580	.49846	.13204	1.44546	14.96033
6/30/13	.00343	.05315	.05716	.01456	.13756	.30683	.16200	2.17874	7.73737
7/7/13	.00493	.05972	.10697	.03933	.14793	1.63195	.59710	3.61197	22.70318

Traps inspected for current week: 19,873

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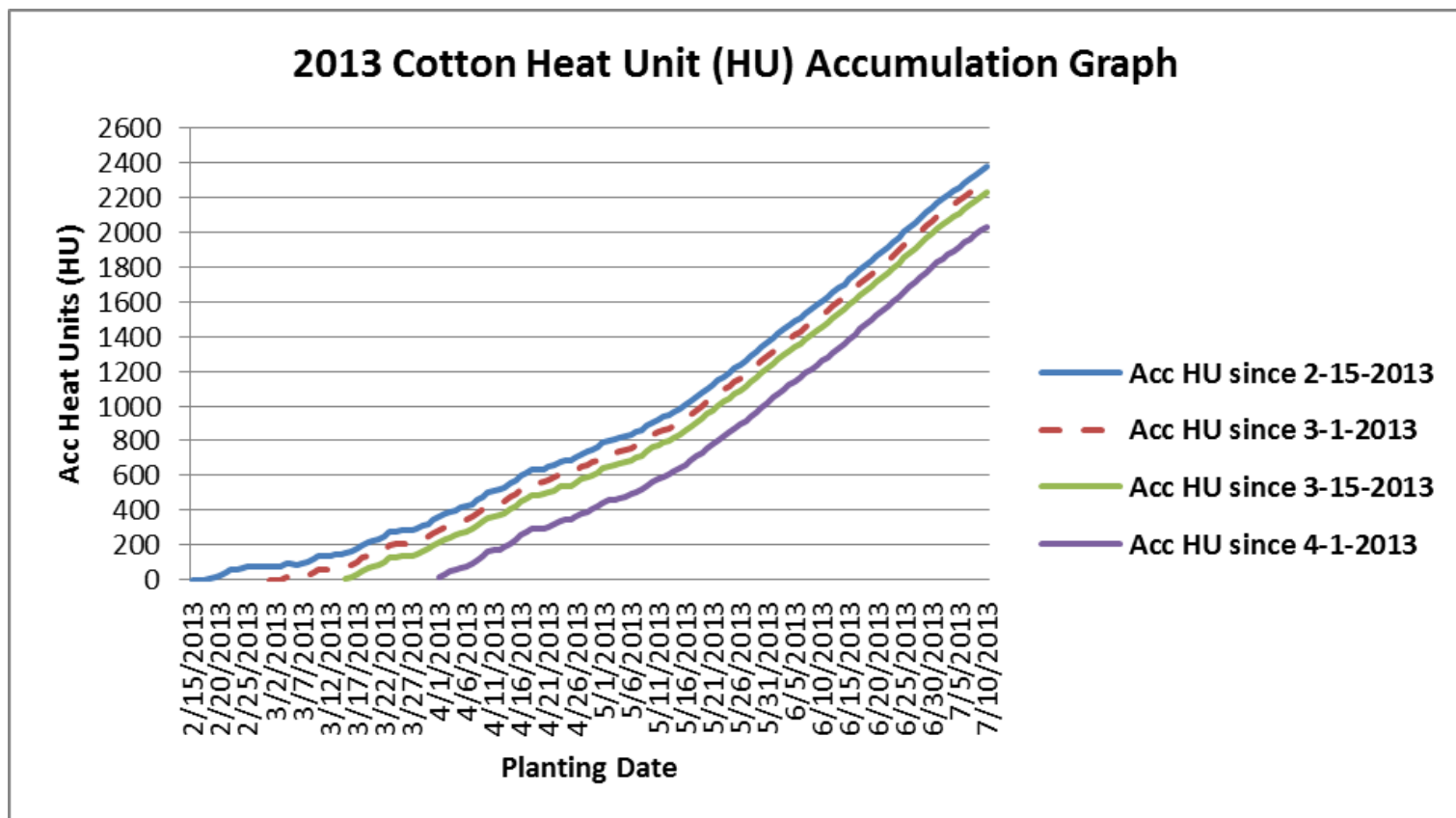
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