



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 past Saturday we received about a half an inch of rain with temperatures in the high 90s throughout the week. Then Thursday this week we had a drop in temperature because of the rain showers that came in. Most areas in the mid valley and Willacy County received half an inch. Combs received 1 ½ inches and further to the east in the Harlingen, and Brownsville area they received more than an inch in a few spots but for the most part a half an inch.

Cotton

More cotton was seen blooming this week as the majority of the Valley's cotton crop was in full bloom. Cotton has varied throughout the Valley with many fields having about 8 bolls to 13 bolls per plant. Other cotton fields seem to have cotton plants producing a lot more bolls late in the season on the tops of the plants that are still pretty small in size. We received reports this week of a couple of fields that were sprayed for Verde bugs in eastern Cameron County. Verde bugs are being seen in low numbers in Willacy County and to the east of highway 77 were seen increasing slightly. Whiteflies in Cameron County and in Hidalgo Counties along the river were observed gradually increasing but nothing that warranted spray this week.



Cotton Blooming

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00111	.00135	.00763	.00290	.00803	.14764	.14230	.20808	.47096	3.63535

Week Ending	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
6/1/14	.00005	.00038	.00426	.00177	.00336	.20724	.06413	.07770	.12939	.84931
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
6/29/14	.00061	.00227	.00935	.00570	.01430	.03580	.49846	.13204	1.44546	14.96033

Traps inspected for current week: 34,175

Grain Sorghum



Many sugarcane aphids under the leaf of harvested grain sorghum

My colleague Dr. Raul Villanueva and I are noticing an **increase in sugarcane aphid populations** starting to build back up in late planted sorghum. In the southern part of the Valley along the river and closer to the coast in eastern Cameron County is where



Combine with many aphids but no honey dew accumulated

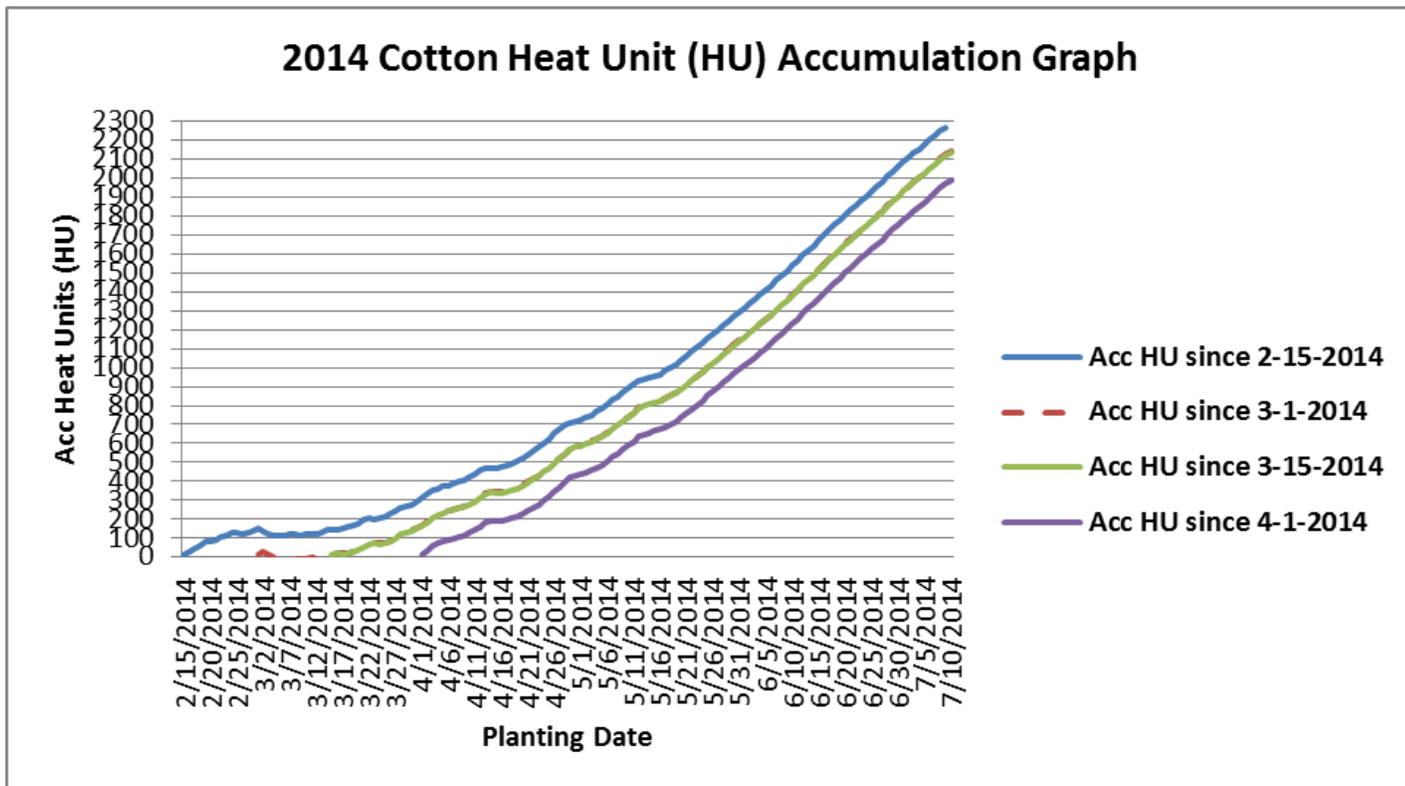
we are seeing higher numbers of sugarcane aphids developing. In the Mid Valley around the Edinburg and Donna areas we are noticing some sugarcane aphids but not as many as along the river but still they are starting to reach high populations again. Even with the rain that we received this week we are still seeing high numbers of sugarcane aphids building up in populations throughout the Valley. This week we were alerted by several growers harvesting their sorghum that they are seeing the **sugarcane aphids in high numbers in their fields while they harvest**. We noticed them feeding on any green parts of the plants they could find and we noticed sugarcane aphids on their combines, but there has not been enough honeydew to cause problems yet to their combines. We might have some growers experiencing problems with their combines clogging from excessive honey dew as the harvest progresses in these next few weeks. **I think it is best to say that the sooner you harvest your grain sorghum and get it out of the fields the better.** We are not recommending to spray we just want all to be aware that aphid populations have come back and late planted fields should be checked to see if spray is necessary for control. We also received confirmation from growers and consultants that the glyphosate applications were not working as well due to the honey dew and sooty mold on the leaves. **As a Recommendation via Dr. David Kerns with Louisiana State University: If it looks like the aphids/honeydew may be an issue, last year he had success spraying high rate of sodium chlorate + 1% crop oil to desiccate leaves about 7 days before harvest.** Let's continue to harvest at a good pace to stay ahead of the sugarcane aphids and their increased feeding to avoid problems with honeydew clogging the combines. After harvest it would be beneficial to disc your sorghum crop and make sure to destroy it as to not harbor any aphids through the fall into the next spring planting season.

Corn

Over a month ago we reported to you that an unidentified species of leaf hopper had been observed in a couple of corn fields in Hidalgo County. They were observed feeding on the corn plants producing high amounts of honey dew causing the corn plants to get sticky and sooty mold was also present. The leaf hoppers were then sent for identification. Since then they have been identified by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as common name being corn leaf hopper, genus and species: *Dalbulus maidis*, and the order and family is Hemiptera: Cicadellidae. This is a native species with a known affinity for corn. It can transmit plant pathogens as well.



Corn leaf hopper: *Dalbulus maidis*



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