



## 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*

Danielle Ortiz  
IPM Extension Agent

Volume XXXVIII

Issue 1, March 20, 2015

### **New Year/Season**

Rained out is the current condition for our Lower Rio Grande Valley growers while we wait for it to dry out soon so we can start planting again. This weekend we are forecasted to receive about half an inch of rain or less across the Valley and with the current wet conditions this could keep us from planting for another week. Temperatures are forecasted to stay at an average of 80°F during the day and 60°F at night through this weekend till next week.

### **Cotton**

According to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (TBWEF) there have been less than 500 acres of cotton planted in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Expected acres to be planted with cotton were estimated at about 100,000 acres but now that estimate is uncertain due to the continuous moisture the Valley has been receiving for the last 2 weeks that has kept growers from being able to plant. Tamaulipas Mexico is also in the same situation with less than 50 hectares of cotton planted out of the projected 9,000 hectares that was expected to be planted. While there is no deadline set by TDA for planting, growers are encouraged to have cotton planted as early as possible in order to have cotton mature, harvested and stalks destroyed by the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. With that in mind many growers are hoping that it will dry out pretty quickly so that they can meet planting deadlines for crop insurance. However with the current moisture and lower soil temperatures cotton acreage is sure to be affected as well as other row crops in the area.

### **Grain Sorghum**

Grain sorghum that was planted prior to these recent rains has average stands at V2 and V3 growth stage. There is still much grain sorghum acreage to be planted. The sugarcane aphid is currently present in all 3 counties as we have found it on haygrazer, Johnsongrass mainly, with some being seen on volunteer grain sorghum. For the most part it has been very hard finding volunteer grain sorghum this year... which is good. However it has been easier finding the sugarcane aphid present



**Grain Sorghum field**

on other hosts. Our conclusion from these observations is sugarcane aphids are more thoroughly established this year in their winter populations. Current products that are effective at controlling the sugarcane aphid and are available for use are sulfloxafor (Transform) and flupyradifurone (Sivanto). Sulfloxafor received approval for use in Texas (Section 18) and has an updated label for this year that you can find at <https://texasagriculture.gov>. Flupyradifurone is also effective and has received approval for reduced rate use. Please contact your local chemical dealer for further information on these products.

### **Corn**

Corn stands are looking great with the current cooler temperatures and cloudy weather that we have been having. Corn stands throughout the Valley are from V3 growth stage to V5 growth stage. No insect activity has been observed and some corn acreage is still yet to be planted.

### **Other Row Crops**

Many acres of sunflowers have been planted and sunflower stands are looking very good. I've noticed some growers have wheat growing this year. Be aware that with the current moisture and wet conditions leaf rust and stripe rust could be present and it could quickly become an issue. It is advisable to scout wheat fields as soon as possible and treat with approved fungicides if necessary.

### **Preventative Sugarcane Aphid Conference for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Growers- 2015**

Join us on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 from 9am to 11am at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center for information about the sugarcane aphid from two guest speakers Dr. JP Michaud of KSU and Dr. Scott Armstrong, researcher for USDA-ARS Oklahoma as well as Dr. Villanueva and myself as we discuss the current state of the sugarcane aphid and expectations for this year. One TDA CEU will be available as well as breakfast during registration.

### **Sponsorship**

Pest Cast sponsorship opportunities will be available again this year. Your support is very much appreciated. Cotton and Grain Producers of the LRGV will be coordinating the sponsorships again. For more information on sponsorship, please contact Webb Wallace at [cottonandgrain.lrgv@gmail.com](mailto:cottonandgrain.lrgv@gmail.com) or (956) 491-1793.

I look forward to a new growing season and serving you as your IPM agent.

Take care,  
Danielle Sekula- Ortiz

We thank the following Sponsors of the Pest Cast newsletter for their very generous contributions toward this effort.



## 2015 Pest Cast Sponsors

Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Bayer Crop Science	Progreso International Bridge Valley Co-Op Oil Mill	DuPont Gulf Compress Miller Chemical Co. Valley Ag Crop Insurance Willamar Operating LP	Bennack Flying Service CropGuard Group Inc. Hargill Growers Gin Ross Gin Farmers Crop Insurance

### Contact Info:

Pest Cast Newsletter: Attn Danielle Sekula Ortiz  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
South District 12  
2401 East Highway 83  
Weslaco, TX 78596  
Phone Number: (956) 968-5581  
[d12south@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:d12south@ag.tamu.edu)

E-mail: [danielle.sekula@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:danielle.sekula@ag.tamu.edu)  
Website: <http://southtexas.tamu.edu>  
Office Number: (956) 969-5608

