



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 2, April 10, 2015

General Situation

So much planting has been going on these last two weeks as growers here in the lower Rio Grande Valley continue to plant their crops into April. It has been heating up quickly with temperatures each day in the upper 80s. However it looks as if we are forecasted to receive light rain showers through this weekend and into late next week. Many growers were seen out in their fields applying herbicide and cultivating to control the many weeds that have come from the recent rains we received two weeks ago.

Cotton

Many acres of cotton have been planted these last two weeks and this week we were delighted to see cotton seedlings coming up as you drive across the Valley. Majority of cotton is in the cotyledon stage with some cotton already in the 2 true leaves stage. Light red spidermite and cotton aphid populations are already being seen in mid Valley cotton.

Grain Sorghum

There have been many different growth stages of grain sorghum in the Valley with more grain sorghum to be planted yet. With the different ages of grain sorghum we foresee this year to have problems with many pests : sorghum midge, headworms, and sugarcane aphids. This week we observed a couple of sugarcane aphid colonies in some older commercial sorghum fields in the Rio Hondo area. Very small findings but sugarcane aphids are now well established in the RGV. It appears the sugarcane aphid populations may outbreak earlier than last year. Scouting your fields weekly will be vital in order to avoid crop loss. Upon finding the first aphids in your sorghum field you should increase scouting from weekly monitoring to scouting every 3-4 days in order to control growing sugarcane aphid populations. We are currently monitoring several commercial sorghum fields at various growing stages throughout all three counties (Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron) and will continue to keep you updated on growing sugarcane aphid populations. If you have questions or concerns about sugarcane aphids please join us next week on Tuesday April 14th for our Preventative sugarcane aphid meeting.

Corn

Corn continues to have good growth as no pests of concern were observed in corn this week.



Black frass is an indicator of where the sunflower bud moth entered the sunflower

Sunflowers

Sunflower stands continue to look great. In the McCook area we are seeing some sunflower bud moth larvae, *Suleima helianthana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) in a couple of fields. The sunflower bud moth adult is about half an inch long with 2 distinct dark transverse markings on its forewings. The adult



Sunflower bud moth feeding inside sunflower stalk

bud moth will lay its eggs near the petiole of plant. The larva of the sunflower bud moth has a dark brown head with a segmented cream colored body and is a little less than a half inch in size. The larva then tunnels into the plant leaving a large amount of black frass exuding at the entrance hole. There are two generations; the first generation they develop on germinating wild sunflowers and feed on early planted varieties of sunflowers in their vegetative growing state. The second generation feeds on the germinating head. Sunflower bud moths are a rare occurrence and usually cause limited damage to fields. Since the larva feeds in the plant stalk insecticide control is ineffective and NOT recommended.



Sunflower bud moth in the middle of sunflower stalk feeding on inside

Preventative Sugarcane Aphid Meeting for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Growers- 2015

Join us on Tuesday April 14th 2015 from 9am to 11am at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco 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 or (956) 491-1793.


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 Dow / Phytogen	Progreso International Bridge Valley Co-Op Oil Mill Wilbur-Ellis Company	DuPont Gulf Compress Miller Chemical Co. RGV Gin Valley Ag Crop Insurance Willamar Operating LP	Bennack Flying Service CropGuard Group Inc. DeltaPine / Monsanto Farmers Crop Insurance Hargill Growers Gin Hargill Grain Company Ross Gin

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