



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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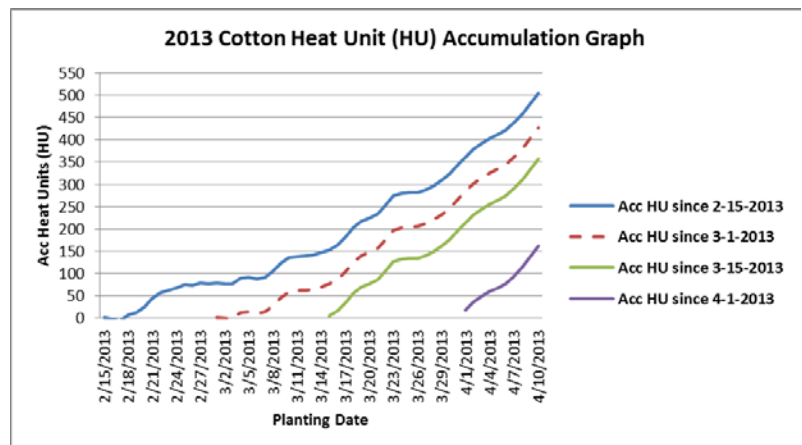
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Editor

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General Situation

As of this week the weather has been the same hot, dry and windy, except for a few sprinkles in the north part of the Valley last week. Those light sprinkles were just traces and not enough to make a dent in the drought. We've had some cool nights this past month but it seems to be getting warmer. With this dry weather and cool nights that we've had, plants tend to get stressed and take longer to mature. They can be prone to more insect damage at an earlier stage.



Cotton

So far cotton acreage in the Valley is at 62,000 acres roughly and is expected to rise as there is still some cotton being planted this week. If so the acreage might reach 70,000 according to the Bollweevil Eradication Foundation. The majority of cotton planted is at seedling stage, or 4 to 5 true leaf stage. Some cotton planted back in February has 6-9 true leaves and has started to square. Dryland producers in Willacy county and parts of Cameron have yet to see their cotton come up.



Thrip damage on cotton leaves

Across the Valley there have been reports of low red spider mite populations every now and then and the usual populations of aphids have been seen in cotton throughout. Cotton growth really took off this last week and a half. Earlier in March we had a lot of cool nights so growth was stagnant for a while.



Thrips (above & bottom)



Some cotton fields in Cameron county have been reportedly sprayed for thrips. In the last week thrips populations have gone up so it might be a good idea to check 2 true leaf cotton for damage. Thrips feed on cotton by piercing their mouth parts into the plant and sucking out its juices leaving the leaves silver in color and crinkled looking. Thrips are tiny slender insects no bigger than about 2mm long and can be yellow, brown, or black with adults having two pairs of narrow wings with fringed hairs. Thrips are not good fliers because of their size but can travel long distances by catching

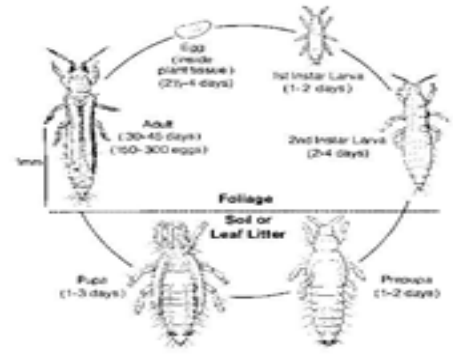


Figure 17 Thrip Life Cycle

the wind, and it's always windy in Texas. Thrips can lay 150-300 eggs that are .2mm in length and are usually white and bean shaped. Larva thrips are wingless, white to yellow in color and have 2 instars. With onions being harvested late planted cotton that has 1 to 4 true leaves is susceptible to significant damage. The treatment threshold is 1 thrips per true leaf or higher. Cotton with 5-7 true leaf cotton can handle more thrips and will grow out of this pest situation. Be careful if you are thinking about treating for thrips that you are not treating after damage has already been done or on cotton that has grown enough that is no longer susceptible to damage.

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00171	1.03707	.00335	.00651	.25052	.21873	.41357	.77436	6.47392

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

Traps inspected for current week: 14,202



Grain Sorghum



Grain Sorghum and Corn

Grain sorghum across the Valley has been looking stressed and spotty in some fields due to poor soil moisture. On recent really hot days sorghum and corn showed twisting leaves stressed by the dry heat. Some fields of grain sorghum are already heading out nicely. In corn there have been some beet armyworms seen and bollworms here and there but no harmful numbers reported. Also on corn spidermite numbers have been increasing probably due to the dry weather. Some corn has been seen tasseling out and maturing just fine.

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.



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