



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

April seems to be bringing some spring showers our way with predictions of rain next week. Temperatures have been fairing in the upper 70s mid 80s with lows in the 50s.

Cotton

The majority of cotton throughout the Valley is in the 1st and 2nd true leaf stage. There are some fields with a bit older cotton that is at the 5th and 6th true leaf stage but very few. Light populations of aphids have been seen in some fields as well as light fleahopper populations in 3rd true leaf cotton with the exception of some older cotton fields already having medium fleahopper populations. This might be a good indication of what to expect in the following weeks for the younger cotton as we head into squaring. This year there is certainly more moisture and more host plants for fleahoppers so we will have to keep a heads up. A few red spider mites have also been seen but if we receive the rain they are predicting it shouldn't pose a problem. In the La feria area a couple of thrips were detected but again nothing substantial. All in all cotton stands are in excellent shape and getting off to a great start.

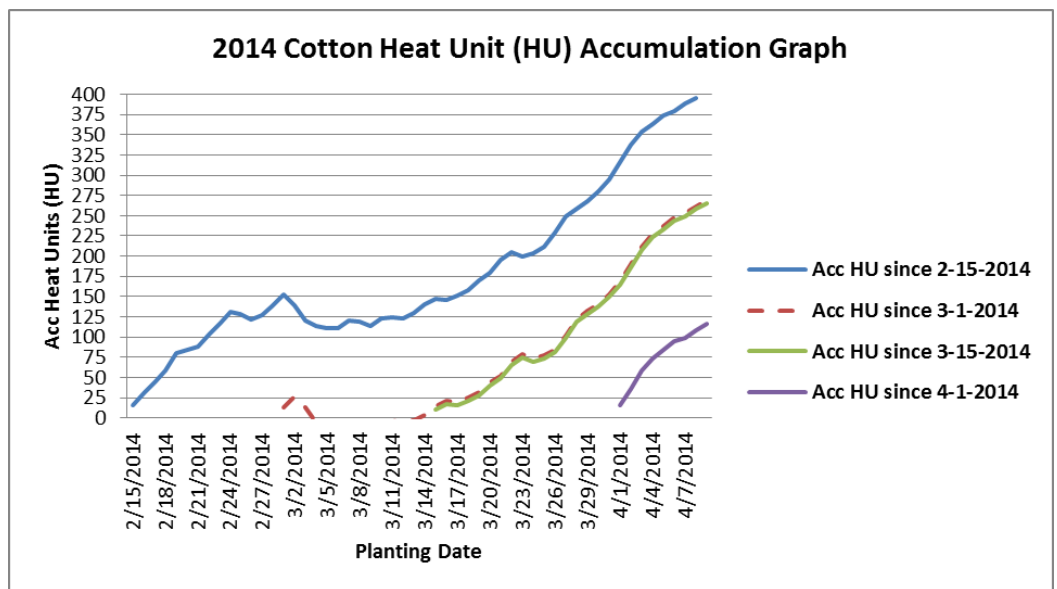


Figure 1: Cotton at 2nd to 3rd true leaf stage

Grain Sorghum

Majority of grain sorghum and corn is in the V5 and V6 stage and there is some seedling sorghum as well throughout the Valley. This week we are starting to pick up on a couple of sugarcane aphids in a few sorghum fields in Cameron and Willacy counties. It is important to keep in mind that the sugarcane aphid has recently reappeared in Victoria, Texas and also in Louisiana after the winter season. The next couple of weeks will be critical to keep a close eye for sugarcane aphids to make sure they do not build up in populations. In eastern Cameron and Willacy counties there was reported some high populations of armyworms in the grain sorghum mainly near brush lines. Some of the feeding was so bad that a few fields had to be replanted in some areas.

Corn

Nothing to report in corn this week.

Announcements

There will be a **Conservation Farming Financial and Technical Assistance Program** taking place on **Tuesday April 29th from 9am to 1:30pm** at the **Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco**, 2401 E. Business 83. The program is free and will assist in learning about conservation practices. They will have various agencies offering financial and technical assistance to implement practices such as land leveling and poly-pipe installation. See attachment for detailed program.

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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.

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