



## 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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Editor

Volume XXXVI

Issue 5, April 26, 2013

### General Situation

The weather has changed a little from last week with slight rain showers on Wednesday ranging from 0.05-0.15 inch throughout the Valley. We had cooler temperatures during the day in the 70s and in the 50s at night Wednesday and Thursday with light drizzle all day Thursday. Still very windy and very dry but overall crops faring well.

### Cotton

Most fields around the valley have been squaring while others just started and plant height ranges from newly emerged cotton to about 1 ½ ft. tall. Cotton planted in February has anywhere from 4 to 6 squares and some of the bigger squares will probably be blooming next week. Insect activity in cotton has been about the same with a drastic increase in beneficials noticed within this past week. Reports of increasing aphid infestations from throughout the Valley were received this week. One small field in Hidalgo county was reported to have been treated for aphids this past week. Red spidermite populations have also been increasing in some fields mainly along the field edges. Let's hope this bit of rain helped wash away some of those red spidermites. There have also been reports of fleahoppers in low numbers in some Cameron County fields. We will have to keep a close eye on fleahopper infestations over the next several weeks to avoid blasted squares in this early part of the cotton fruiting period. Cotton maturation has been slowed due to the cooler days and nights and will be more susceptible to fruit damage.



**Big eyed bug Adult (above and below)**



**Scymnus Beetle Adult**



**Scymnus Beetle Larvae**

The usual beneficials such as convergent ladybugs have been seen but also a lot of scymnus lady beetles (adults and larvae) and big-eyed bugs. Scymnus lady beetle adults are very small and are brown to black in color. The larvae are completely different looking from the adult with long white streamers of wax covering them. They look like a fuzzy mop head. Scymnus adults and larva feed mainly on aphids but will feed on spidermite populations

in cotton. Big eyed bug adults are 3/16 inch long, silvery gray to black with wings and bulging eyes while the nymphs resemble the adults but lack wings. Big eyed bugs also eat a wide range of cotton pests such as whiteflies, plantbugs, aphids, mites, caterpillars, bollworm and budworm eggs.

### Grain Sorghum and Corn

Although no insect activity was reported in grain sorghum some blackbirds have seem to make their way to some earlier planted grain sorghum that already has hard dough forming. Corn has been silking and developing well throughout the Valley. In the Harlingen and San Benito area conventional corn that is silking already has corn earworms. Reports of bollworm infested silks of corn ears have been reported at 5-10% infestation. When corn earworms reach a cumulative infestation of 10% of larvae and eggs in the ears, an insecticide application may be recommended.

## LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00112	.01658	.00248	.00724	.29812	.16836	.36592	.52281	4.01635

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
4/14/13	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/21/13	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685

Traps inspected for current week: 27,813

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