



# 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*

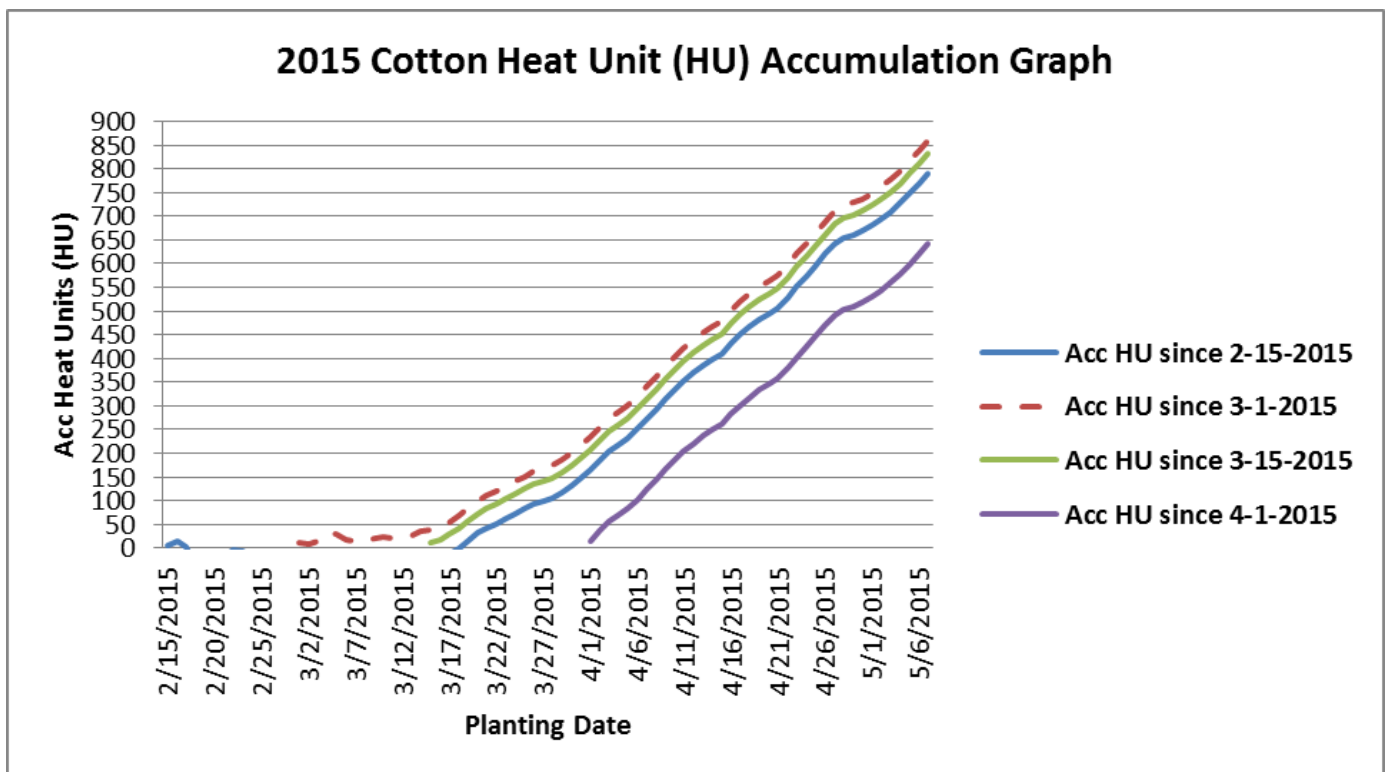
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## General Situation

This week was very dry and windy at times as temperatures were in the upper 80s during the day and in the mid-70s at night. Those who planted by mid-February and in March accumulated a lot of heat units this past week as crops continue to mature. Next week we are forecasted for rain throughout the week with the potential for some heavy rains on Monday. These rains will influence those fields that might need to have a spray application over the weekend prior to the rains.





Adult fleahopper on cotton stalk

**Cotton**

Majority of the Valley's cotton is at 8-9 true leaf stage with a little bit of older cotton at 14 true leaves. Cotton is squaring really good; with this week being the first that we see some light adult fleahopper populations and very little nymphs. These next two weeks will be crucial to monitor for damaging fleahopper populations. Fleahopper adults are



Adult Fleahopper on cotton leaf

3mm in length, oval shaped and yellowish/green in color. Fleahopper nymphs are quite smaller than the adults and are light green in color with purple antennae. It is important to control fleahoppers during the squaring stage to avoid fleahoppers feeding too much and reducing your square retention resulting in blasted squares. When scouting for fleahoppers, each time you sample (weekly is good) you will want to check 25 terminals at at least 4 locations of a field starting when the first squares are appearing, which is currently where we are at now in terms of growth stage. If you notice anywhere from 15 to 25 fleahoppers per 100 terminals with squares being lost (rule of thumb: 10% the first week of squaring, 15% the second week of squaring, and 25% the third week of squaring, with treatment rarely needed after first bloom) treatment is justified. Medium to high cotton aphid populations have been seen throughout the Valley as well as some beneficials feeding on them.



Cotton Aphids

**LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION**

YTD	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.01991	.00146	.00112	.01658	.00248	.00986	.24020	.15333	.33301	.44477	3.06271

Week Ending	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/19/15	.01756	.00164	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/26/15	.02083	.00149	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
5/3/15	.02954	.00086	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269



### **Grain Sorghum**

This week we continue to see increasing populations of SCA. The presence of SCA seems to be in greater abundance closer to the coast in eastern Cameron County but is dispersing rapidly as more winged aphids have emerged. Some fields that have light SCA populations (No more than 20 SCA per leaf) are being sprayed as growers are concerned they will not be able to get into their fields next week with the threat of potential heavy rain fall. However, threshold average is 50 SCA per leaf, and I would strongly recommend that if you have numbers below 20 SCA/leaf and are not finding an established presence of SCA to wait on making a spray application. Here at the station we have not reached economic threshold of 50 SCA/leaf, however we were counting numbers of 20 SCA/leaf and decided to make a spray application ahead of the rain for data purposes. We did another count today and averages are below 50 SCA/leaf. On another note we are starting to see some sorghum midge in some fields. Try to avoid spraying pyrethroids to control sorghum midge that way you will not inadvertently flare SCA populations. Although this spring is notoriously unpredictable for weather patterns and pest populations please continue monitoring your fields, we have observed abundant numbers of beneficial insects (lady bugs, lacewing, syrphid flies, parasitoids and even spiders) that might be holding SCA below levels that could cause damages and if you disrupt them we can produce SCA outbreaks.

#### **Below are links with more SCA information:**

<http://agrilife.org/stxborderinsects/sugarcane-aphids/>

<http://txscan.blogspot.com/>

### 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.


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



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