



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 we started off Monday and Tuesday with 100°F weather. Heat units are accumulating fast. Chances for some potential rain showers look pretty slim this coming week. Never the less all crops are progressing well.

*The information below is provided by your local crop consultants as well as our own IPM program at AgriLife Extension, to better serve the Valley and our growers' needs.

Cotton

This year according to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, cotton is up to 143,996 acres throughout the Valley. Most cotton has either just started to square at 5 to 6 true leaves or has been squaring at 7 to 9 true leaves. The main pest that we have been seeing increase this week is the fleahopper. High fleahopper nymph populations have been seen mainly in the Willacy and Cameron counties. Over 50% infestation of fleahopper adults and nymphs have been recorded this week. Most fields will be receiving a spray application this week, while some are on their second applications for fleahopper control. It's going to be a very high fleahopper season. Again when scouting for fleahoppers, each time you sample (weekly is good) you will want to check 25 terminals in at least 4 locations of a field starting when the first squares are appearing, which is this week for most fields. 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. Some of the insecticides used to treat fleahoppers are Assail, Centric, Intruder, Tranform, Carbine and other insecticides.

Spidermites were seen along some field edges this week in Cameron and Willacy county. Populations are present but have not warranted any sprays. Another pest starting to appear were some white flies. One whitefly was being seen every once in a while in Willacy County this week. A few tarnished plant bugs were seen in fields this week as well but in very low numbers. On the west end of the Valley in Hidalgo County, thrips were still being seen in low numbers as well.



Cotton field in Hidalgo County



Cotton Fleahopper Egg
Cotton Fleahopper Adult



Fleahopper Stages



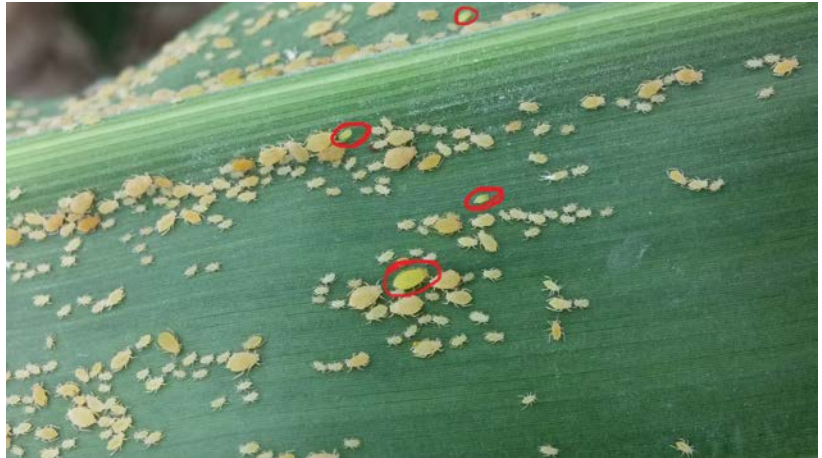
Cotton Fleahopper Nymph



Actual Size

Grain Sorghum

This week we have received reports of medium to high sugarcane aphid populations throughout the Valley in all counties. All commercial fields that we are surveying throughout the Valley had light sugarcane aphid populations during the last two previous weeks. However, this week there was an increase in sugarcane aphid numbers. Between 60 to 80% of sorghum plants had between 1 to 4 lower leaves with light (<10) to moderate (200 aphids/leaf) aphid infestations. Sorghum fields that were planted in February and even early March really need to be inspected for sugarcane aphids. Most likely the seed treatments are not effective any longer. The sugarcane aphids are being observed on grain sorghum that is just about to head to sorghum that is already heading. **Please inspect sorghum fields as the sugarcane aphids can populate rapidly.** When inspecting for sugarcane aphids look at the lower bottom leaves of the sorghum plant. Any honeydew found will lead you to a sugarcane aphid infestation. The sugarcane aphids have been turning a brighter yellow in color with the hotter temperatures and can easily be confused with the common yellow sugarcane aphids. However sugarcane aphids will be found in greater numbers or clusters than the yellow sugarcane aphids. There is no threshold for sugarcane



In this photo, the aphids that are circled are the common Yellow sugarcane aphids, they are brighter in color. The Sugarcane aphid however is in much greater numbers all around and is a bit lighter in color. Notice the large sugarcane aphid populations compared to the 4 yellow sugarcane aphids seen in this pic.



Sorghum field just heading

aphids since it is a new pest in sorghum here in Texas; however we are recommending that you do not let infestation levels exceed 30% to 50% for they are very hard to control. When spraying use drops on your booms and hollow cone nozzles so that the chemical can get up under the bottom leaves where the aphids are feeding. A high rate of water,

such as 15-20 gallons per acre is recommended for good coverage.

EPA has authorized a Section 18 to TDA for the use of Transform WG (sulfoxaflor) on sorghum to control sugarcane aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*) as of April 24, 2014. Foliar applications may be made by ground or air at a rate of 0.75- 1.5 oz of product per acre. **A maximum of 2 applications per acre per year may be made**, resulting in a seasonal maximum application rate of 3 ounces of product per acre per year. There is a minimal application retreatment interval of 14 days and a restricted entry interval (REI) of 24 hours. A 7 day pre-harvest interval (PHI) for forage and a 14 day PHI for grain or stover must be observed. The exemption to use this product expires October 31, 2014. Remember to follow all label



Sugarcane aphid infestation. Notice glistening honey dew on the leaves from feeding.

restrictions. The Section 18 Transform WG label and EPA authorization letter is posted on the TDA website available for growers to make a copy:

<http://texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides/Section18Exemptions/Section18ExemptionsNoticesandLabels.aspx>

Corn

Corn is in the early tasseling stage and some early silks are visible. Some low numbers of whorl feeding worms were observed on seed corn. Many starchy and conventional corn fields have been sprayed for corn ear worms on the silks as a preventative measure from damage.



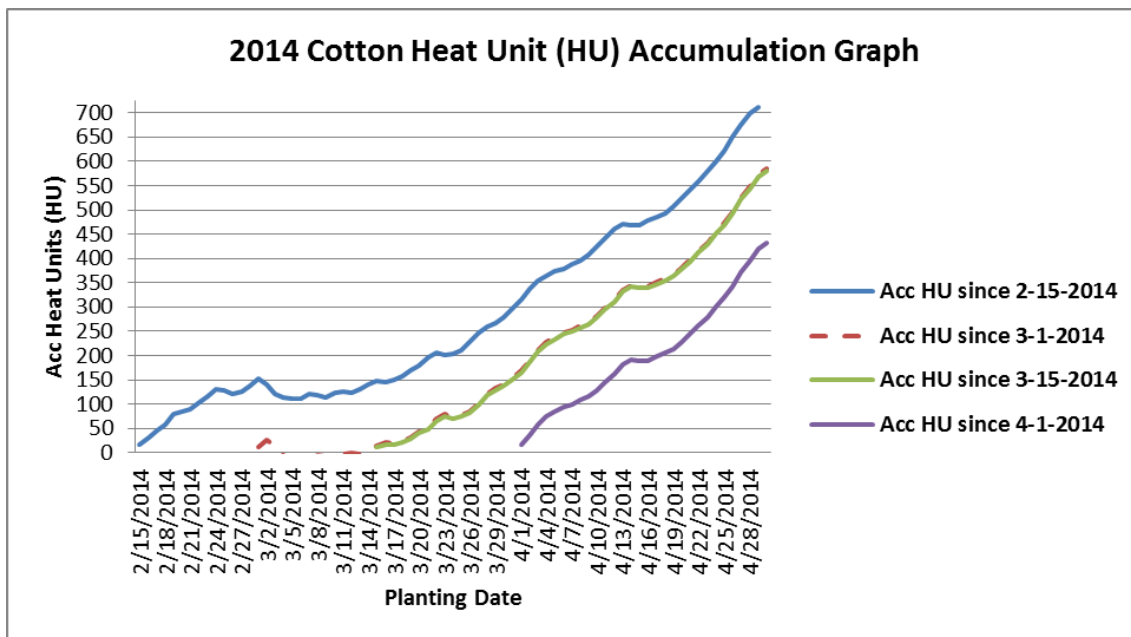
Corn Tasseling in Willacy County

LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00146	.00112	.01658	.00248	.00724	.28612	.16836	.36592	.52281	4.01635

Week Ending	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/6/14	.00212	.00435	.03353	.00476	.00672	.11633	.30512	.40392	.88875	6.47392
4/13/14	.00164	.00099	.01617	.00360	.00592	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/20/14	.00149	.00076	.01572	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.18005	2.96203
4/27/14	.00086	.00060	.00339	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685


Traps inspected for current week: 39,708



Announcement

*Lower Rio Grande Valley **vegetable growers** are invited to the Onion and Watermelon Irrigation Field Day to be held from 9 a.m.- noon May 8 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Weslaco. 2 CEUs will be available. For more info or to register, contact Ashley Gregory at 956-968-5581, or email her at ahgregory@ag.tamu.edu

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