



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

Last Friday brought about some much anticipated rain, about half an inch to an inch in most areas. We started off this week with highs in the lower 90s and are ending with lower temperatures in the high 70s. Tuesday really cooled things off when we received some more good rains. Willacy county received anywhere from 2 to 4 inches, in west Hidalgo out towards McCook they received about 2 inches, in the mid Valley, Weslaco area we received about 1.6 inches, out towards the coastal area in Cameron county they received about 2- 2 ½ inches of rain. A wet week, as fields were looking pretty nice and green.

Cotton

Cotton continues to look good with stands throughout the Valley ranging anywhere from 4 to 16 true leaves. The majority of cotton is squaring and fruiting pretty heavily. Now with the recent rains many growers will be returning once there fields dry up to put out plant growth regulators (PGRs), such as Mepiquat chloride to help with shortening internode length to increase fruit production, control growth and promote earliness.

As far as pests in cotton go, we saw a great reduction in the red spidermite populations due to the recent hard rains. Some fleahoppers have been returning to the fields in low numbers here and there across the Valley. Aphids seem to be increasing in populations again, with significant number increases in the Brownsville area. Some plant hoppers and tarnished plant bugs were seen in the Rio Hondo area, but nothing that warrants spray. For the most part cotton looked fairly clean this week and some good numbers of beneficial predators were seen returning to cotton fields to do their jobs.



Cotton field in Hidalgo County

Grain Sorghum

In grain sorghum this week we observed that sugarcane aphid populations did not substantially decrease and were not affected despite the recent hard rains we received. Last week I observed heavy sugarcane aphid infestations in the panicle and upon inspecting them after the rain I observed that they were not affected and that populations had continued to increase. Heavy sugarcane aphid populations in Hidalgo

and Cameron County still persist in many areas. In Willacy County there are some lighter sugarcane aphid populations but heavy infestations were reported in Sebastian right on the county line in that area. We are still observing high numbers of alates (winged females) in grain sorghum and noticed that they are continuing to reproduce and disperse after the rains.

In recent developments this week we observed that sugarcane aphids are reproducing on corn and in sugarcane. It is not definite yet if their reproduction in corn will be prevalent, but in sugarcane they seem to be better established. Observations are being conducted and monitored in both corn and sugarcane, with much concern for sugarcane since it is an established crop all year long. Sugarcane aphids are known to be better vectors for viruses and are known for transmitting the yellow leaf virus in sugarcane.

Please inspect sorghum fields as the sugarcane aphids can populate rapidly. You can look for sugarcane aphids by looking at the field edge at the bottom stalks or look under the underside of the **flag leaf** for signs of infestation. You may notice honeydew or sooty mold on your stalks starting at the lower leaves; this is an indication of high sugarcane aphid populations. You will also notice a slight glistening on the leaves, this is the honeydew deposited by the sugarcane aphids feeding that then falls onto the lower leaf, so you will want to inspect the one above under that leaf. Sugarcane aphids populate in much greater numbers than that of the yellow sugarcane aphid and are a lighter yellow in color.

A meeting to discuss the new sugarcane aphid infestation in grain sorghum will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center in Weslaco. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. and is scheduled to last about one hour. One TDA CEU will be available. Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist and I, Danielle Sekula-Ortiz, Extension IPM Agent will present information about the sugarcane aphid and will conclude the meeting with a visit to an infested sorghum field to help show how to identify the sugarcane aphid in the field.



Winged female sugarcane aphids producing offspring in the flag leaf



Sugarcane aphids and yellow sugarcane aphids on sugarcane. The sugarcane aphids are lighter in color.

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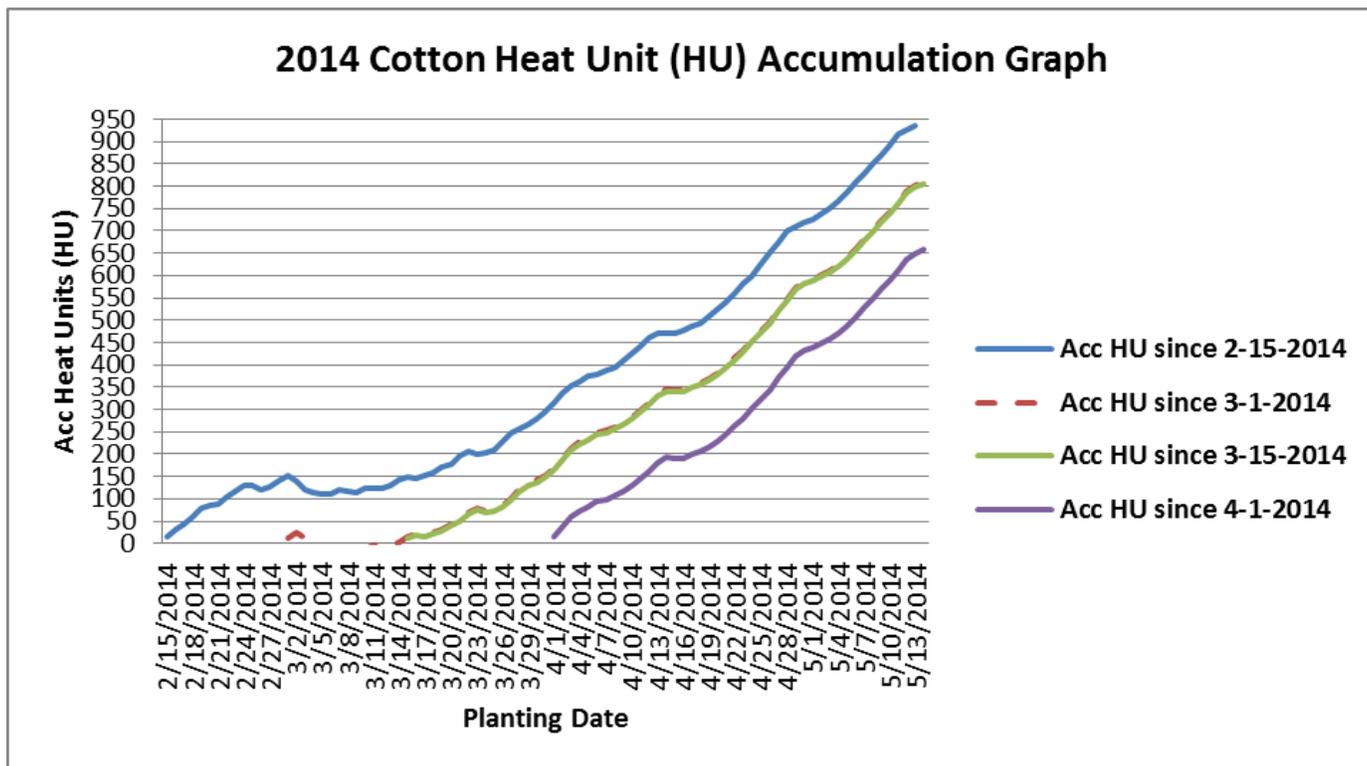
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LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00144	.00096	.01086	.00191	.00944	.20591	.14138	.29212	.39110	2.03058

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
5/4/14	.00243	.00058	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/11/14	.00035	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028

Traps inspected for current week: 39,688