



## 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

Hot, dry, and strong winds are the current weather status. Temperatures in the Valley were in the low 90s with nights in the high 70s. Crops making good progress. Grain sorghum and corn continue to mature.

### Cotton

Warmer nights have helped cotton make some progress on plant growth. The general rule is that for every 50 heat units (HU) a new node develops. Cotton is between 9-14 NAWF, and grew about 2-3 nodes within this past week. While driving across the valley the majority of cotton is in bloom but some later planted cotton will begin to bloom in the next 2 weeks. Most fields had heavy squaring with some earlier planted fields showings small to medium bolls. Cotton canopies were starting to fill out nicely in most fields. In these next few weeks (peak bloom to first open boll), cotton water usage will be at its highest.

Fleahoppers are being seen mainly in eastern Cameron county. Fleahopper nymphs at levels of 30 per hundred plants on older cotton and at 8-10 per hundred plants on younger cotton have been seen.

Fleahoppers continue to be seen in low numbers throughout the valley, but not in high enough numbers to warrant treatment.

Aphid populations have been observed building slowly. Aphid populations are below threshold levels of 50 aphids per leaf in most fields. However, in the Harlingen and Brownsville areas several fields had to be sprayed for aphid infestations.

Whitefly numbers increased rather quickly in fields in lower Cameron county this week. They are likely to be treated soon. In the rest of the Valley whiteflies were observed sporadically in fields and where present, they were in low numbers.

Beneficials counts were low this week. A few convergent ladybird beetle larvae were observed. Syrhid fly larvae were observed in some fields feeding on aphids.



**Syrhid fly larvae**

## LRGV BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00132	.00863	.00194	.00740	.16775	.12534	.25231	.33815	1.24723

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
4/28/13	.00058	.00474	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269
5/5/13	.00060	.00136	.00077	.00825	.05548	.08168	.07073	.09976	.73028
5/12/13	.00216	.00096	.00174	.00291	.02454	.07013	.17113	.09204	.72057
5/19/13	.00322	.00485	.00234	.00140	.10516	.08410	.06717	.20786	.58319

**Traps inspected for current week: 8,703**

### Grain Sorghum

Sorghum fields were observed changing color. In the mid Valley/Hidalgo county area several fields were reportedly turned in to be sprayed for sorghum midge. Particularly in south Merced and La Feria midge was observed in high numbers. Inspect your fields, if the majority of the field shows heads still in the yellow bloom stage keep checking for midge. Make sure to check fields across from each other as fields with high numbers reportedly were next to fields with little to no infestation. Also remember to check for midge daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as a new brood of offspring emerge each day. There are many late planted sorghum fields blooming at all different times so scouting for midge will be critical. If midge numbers exceed 1 per head you should consider control. You can also use the sorghum midge calculator at <https://insects.tamu.edu/extension/apps/sorghummidgecalculator/index.php>, to see if spraying is needed. One field was reported to have a couple of rice stinkbugs. Rice stink bugs tend to feed on late blooming to milk doe stage in sorghum.

### Corn

As corn has been maturing a lot of the silks are starting to dry down. Earworm eggs were still seen in high numbers in some fields.

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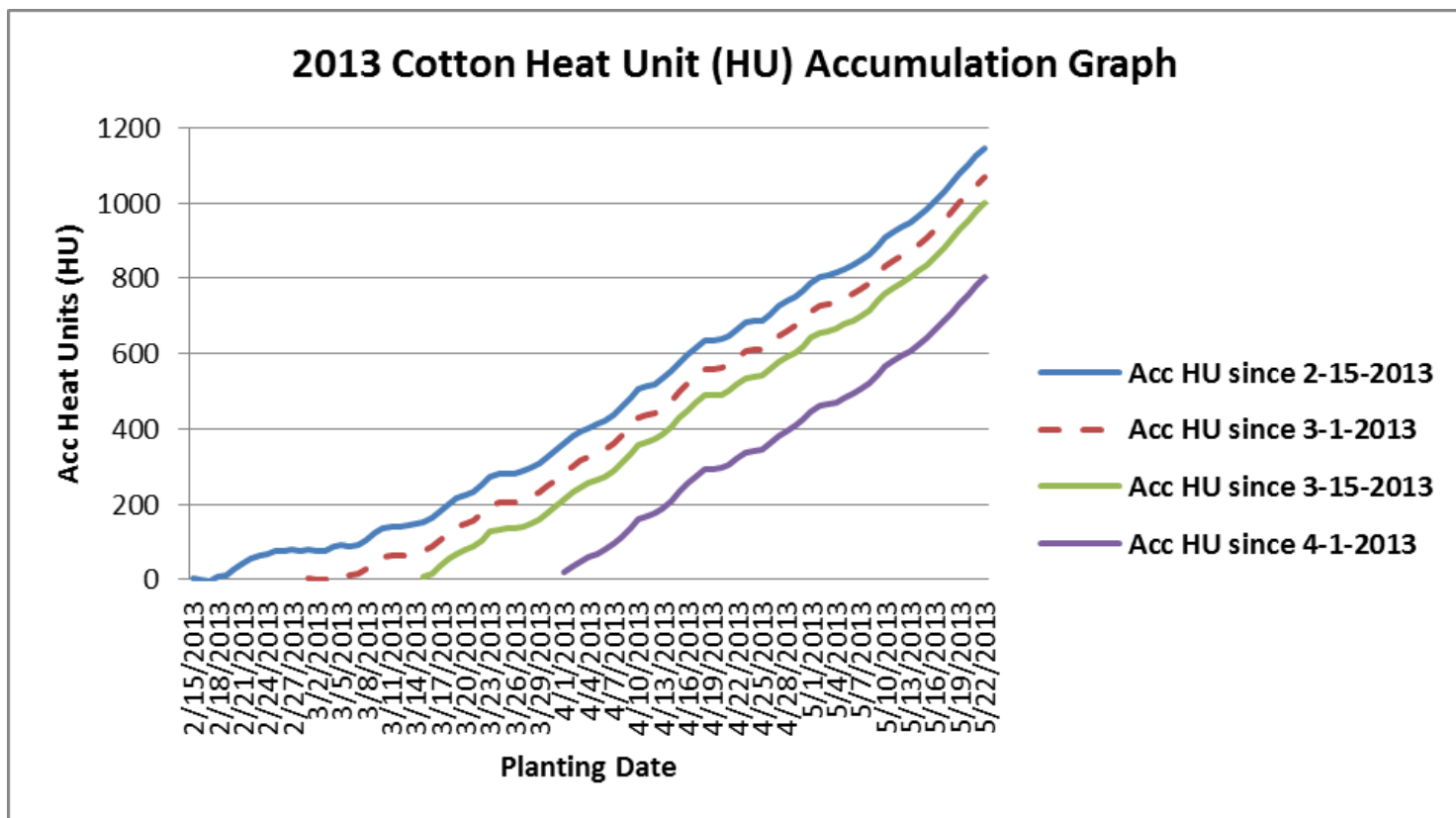
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