

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

John W. Norman, Jr.
Editor

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General Situation: This week the Valley had a couple of days of cool, dry weather, but with no rain in sight. All summer crops looked good and most still were maturing normally. Only small changes in insect activity were observed.

Cotton: In the irrigated areas, crops were being watered again this week. A few fields have now had their second irrigation. If it does not rain soon, a third irrigation will be needed to produce a normal yield. Dryland folks are just waiting and praying for it to rain soon. Plants in most fields showed normal growth and plenty of squaring this week in both the irrigated and the dryland areas. Blooming cotton was seen in most fields this week. Peak bloom should occur within the next two to four weeks.

More change was seen in beneficial insect and spider activity than in any other insect activity observed this week. Lady beetles and aphid parasite activity was especially high in most fields. Beneficials cleaned aphids out of most fields that had not recently been sprayed. Still, some fields required aphid control because beneficials had not been able to hold aphids in check.

Aphids, spidermites, a few fleahoppers and recurring weeds were the principal pests encountered in fields this week. Aphids, as mentioned above, were coming under good control in most fields. Spidermites were treated in some fields this week, but in most fields spidermite control was not needed. Fleahoppers were observed in lower numbers this week than last and few fields required treatment. Weeds, a constant threat to younger cotton, were being treated as winds permitted.

An unusual bug being was observed in many fields around the Valley during the last several weeks. It was tentatively identified by Dr. Thomas J. Henry, Systematic Entomology, Research Entomologist, USDA, Washington, D.C., as one of the *scentless plant bugs*. These 1/4 inch long, brownish-gray bugs with nearly clear wings are similar in shape and size of tarnished plant bugs, a commonly seen, but only an occasional pest of cotton in the Valley. However, unlike tarnished plant bugs and verde plant bugs, scentless plant bugs are not pests of cotton. The scentless plant bugs can be seen moving around the terminals of cotton, but no damage has been observed.

Grain Sorghum and Corn: Changing head color was the most notable observation made in sorghum fields this week. Yield potential looks normal so far. It is unlikely that the Valley will witness the high yields of sorghum observed in many fields in 2010, but considering the weather conditions this spring, grain yield potential looks pretty good overall.

Corn was also making good headway this week. Large ears with browned silk was observed in all fields this week. No pest problems were reported in corn this week.

LRGV

BOLL WEEVIL TRAPPING INFORMATION

YTD	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	.00212	.00986	.24020	.15333	.33301	.44477	3.06271

Week Ending	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
4/3/11	.00476	.00672	.19847	.08503	.64118	.48544	0
4/10/11	.00360	.00592	.11633	.30512	.40392	.37552	0
4/17/11	.00114	.00312	.23686	.17102	.36414	.88875	6.47392
4/24/11	.00133	.01426	.38106	.05425	.23751	.15855	3.48685
5/1/11	.00043	.01528	.09081	.09113	.18227	.08629	1.70269

Traps inspected for current week: 45,986

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Contact Info

Pest Cast Newsletter
 Texas AgriLife Extension Service
 South District 12
 2401 East Highway 83
 Weslaco, TX 78596
 (956) 968-5581
 E-mail: d12south@ag.tamu.edu