



## 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

We received some good rains this week in some areas around the Valley, it was what I call a 'hit and miss'. Grain sorghum and corn harvesting has continued this week as well. Temperatures still in the high 90s with heat index each day around 105°F to 110°F.

### Cotton

Seeing open bolls averaging anywhere from 40% to 80% in cotton. As harvest time approaches us we should consider the proper application timing of harvest aids in order to preserve fiber quality and maximize our yield potential. Harvest time is fun but can be a tricking time as far as when to pull the trigger on your boll openers, defoliant, and desiccants. Boll openers (active ingredient ethephon) will cause the bolls to open at a faster pace; they do not help the boll mature so that is important to keep in mind when you have smaller immature bolls at the tops of the plants for that may affect your yield greatly. There are two types of defoliant that remove foliage from the cotton plant, your hormone defoliant such as thiadiazuron and your herbicidal defoliant such as tribufos and the ppo inhibitors, and for conventional cotton you can use glyphosate. It's important to note that if you use too high of a rate for your herbicidal defoliant you can cause the leaves to get stuck on the plant. Desiccants (paraquat or sodium chlorate) on the other hand will kill and dry all the plant tissues, they can be used as defoliant but selecting the right rate to use is tricky sometimes with the weather. This was my summarization of an article on cotton harvest brought to you by Dr. Gaylon Morgan and Dr. Josh McGinty, if you want to read their more detailed description of using cotton harvest aids you can click on link below to get to their helpful article:

<http://agrilife.org/texasrowcrops/2015/08/03/preparing-for-the-2015-south-texas-cotton-harvest/>

Again, this week mainly only seeing whiteflies present in cotton. It is not too much of a concern since its mainly adults I am seeing, but in some of the later fields squaring at the tops and immature bolls you can find some adult and nymph whitefly activity so for those I would recommend spraying since they are far along from harvest compared to most other cotton fields. Products that you can use to control whitefly are Oberon, Sivanto, Intruder, Courier, Knack, etc. Check labels for rates.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July Weekend, be safe and see you next week!

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**Cotton Inc.**

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**USDA NIFA iPIPE CAP grant**



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