



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

Hi Everyone. This week's Pest cast is going to be short and sweet. Well maybe not sweet, we are still having a lot of the same pest problems in the fields as last week. Temperatures have remand hot with temperatures during the day in the low 90s and at night in the low 70s. We did receive some rain earlier in the week. We are forecasted for a slight cold front on Sunday but after temperatures will continue to be hot.

Cotton

This week in cotton we are seeing the first blooming cotton. Are main pest right now in cotton is still the cotton aphid. I noticed cotton fields with heavier populations were those that had just been irrigated the week prior. However compared to the last two weeks I was picking up on some heavy beneficial populations of ladybug larvas while sweep netting (had about 20 larvas per 15 sweeps, so that was good to see). Lets hope our natural predators continue to reproduce quickly to help control the cotton aphid populations. For aphids in cotton products available for use are acetamiprid (Intruder, Strafer or Assail) or Carbine, and Sivanto as well. We are also picking up on a few fleahoppers, very light populations if any but I did come across a few blooming fields that had a little bit of blasted squares. There has also been reported light spidermite populations present as well as a bit of whiteflies in the cotton. Also while sweep netting we found a few tarnished plantbugs in the cotton and will need to keep a watchful eye for them in the weeks to come when the cotton starts to produce the immature bolls they like to feed on.

Grain Sorghum

I scouted quite a few fields of grain sorghum along the river and am happy to report that they were very clean. I am seeing sugarcane aphids all across the Valley, some fields the populations are very high but am very proud of my growers because it looks like everyone is managing them well. If you have grain sorghum flowering already just a reminder to go and check it for sugarcane aphids or if you are fixing to irrigate make sure of your sugarcane populations and treat accordingly. The two products available to spray for the sugarcane aphids this year are Sivanto and Transform. Sivanto spray at 4-5oz/acre, do not go lower than 4 oz for good residual and Transform use that product at 1-1.5oz/ acre, do not go any lower than 1 oz for good residual.

Sponsorship

I would like to thank all our 2017 Sponsors that we have for this growing season thus far. Thanks you and your support is greatly appreciated! If any of you all would still like to Sponsor the Pest Cast just get a hold of Webb Wallace, thanks Webb.

Thank you Research Grant Sponsors

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Texas Grain Sorghum Board

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