



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

It's amazing how things can change so quickly from one week to the next. The Valley accumulated quite a bit of rainfall last week with most areas receiving anywhere from 7 to about 14 inches of rain in the course of 3 days. Some areas received even more than this. Temperatures still remain very hot in the high 90s, low 100s during the day and in the upper 70s at night with humidity reaching 90% most days. This weather is perfect to brew up pest problems in the upcoming weeks.

Cotton

This week in cotton was certainly very noticeable to see the last of the June drop as many fields exhibited symptoms. Majority of the Valley's cotton crop was shedding its small bolls and squares as we grow closer to the home stretch. Some of the Valleys cotton fields in the Mid Valley areas received too much rain that remained in the field for several days causing some fields to begin to rot. While other cotton fields seem to have benefited from the rains. Overall majority of the Valleys cotton fields are still muddy from recent rains. In some fields we are seeing premature senescence. Premature senescence is caused by insufficient potassium in plant tissue. The condition makes cotton leaves susceptible to secondary pathogens such as alternaria, etc. The leaves will initially turn yellow in color and then rapidly change to



Figure 1, and 2: Cotton fields rotting affected by too much rain



red/orange/bronze as plant health declines. Premature senescence often occurs when dry conditions during the boll growing stage are followed by rainy cloudy days and plants have a decent boll load.

Pest activity this week was very low if any at all. Main pest on the scene was adult whiteflies which could be found in just about every field in very low populations throughout all 3 counties. However with the increase in humidity will be interesting to see how quickly populations increase so let's hope to

stay ahead of them and control as soon as able to get back into the fields. My students picked up on a couple of tarnished plant bugs and we also saw a few Verde bugs in the cotton. Majority of the cotton fields we looked at overall were pretty clean for now and we are beginning to see more open bolls in the fields as well.



Figure 4: Sugarcane aphid on sorghum

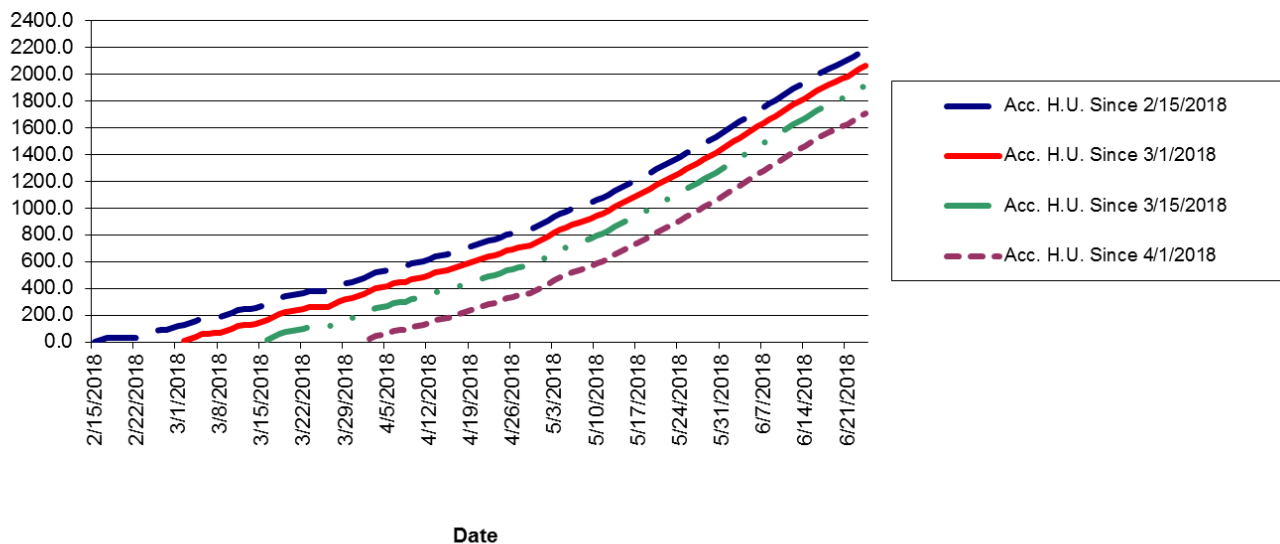


Figure 3: Premature senescence

Grain Sorghum

Majority of the Valleys grain sorghum has already been harvested. For those that got rained out last week and were not able to harvest we were greeted by an influx of sugarcane aphids this week. Basically if you have any sorghum still needing to be harvested you are probably going to want to add 0.5oz Sulfoxaflor with your glyphosate to clean up sugarcane aphid populations prior to harvest. Usually most growers do not experience this last peak in sugarcane aphids due to timely harvest but since we were delayed by rain some will have to face them including myself as my variety trial had little to no aphids prior to the rain only to have this dramatic increase in sca and we cannot get in to spray since it is still too muddy.

2018 Cotton Heat Unit (H.U.) Accumulation Graph



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