



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

Harvest is in full motion now as several fields across the Valley have been defoliated and are being harvested with more to come. It has been very hot weather each day with temperatures reaching into the 100's which has helped some of our later planted cotton catch up in maturity.

Cotton

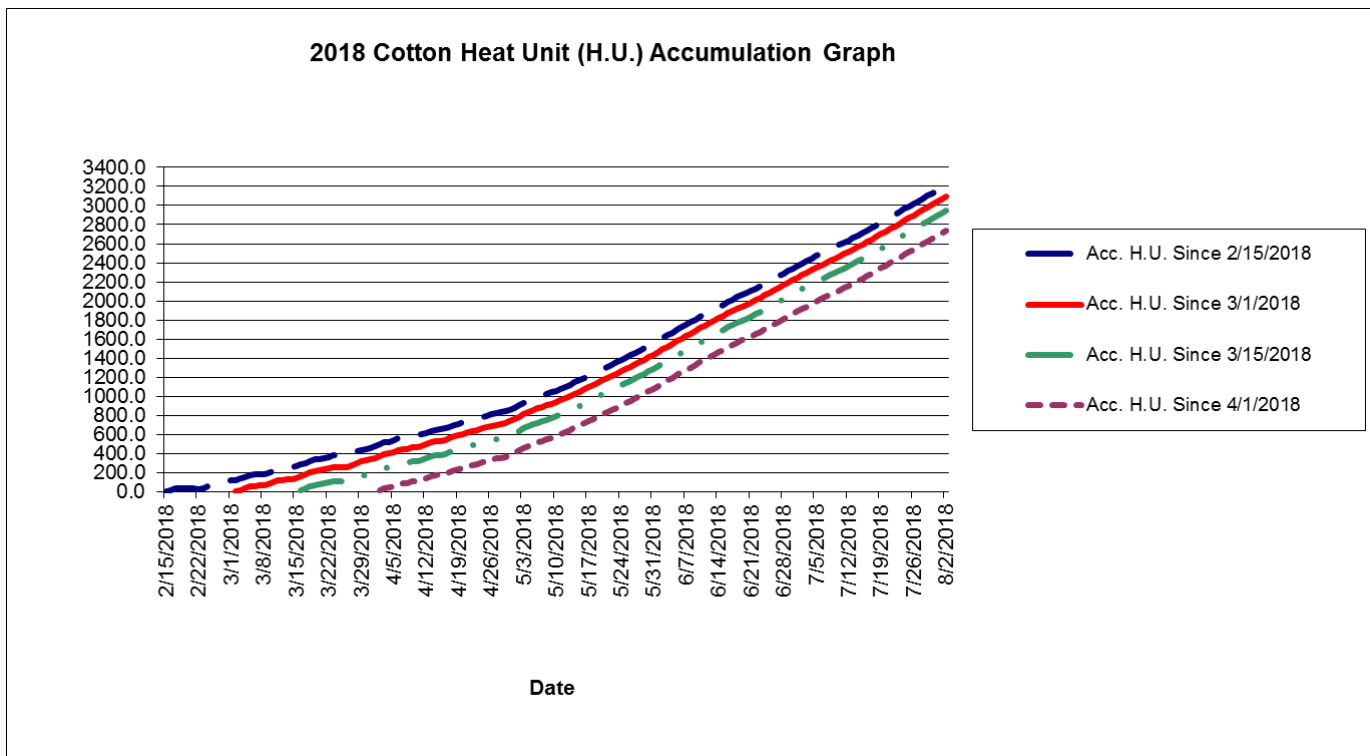
Mainly the only pest pressure I am seeing is whiteflies. There are so many whiteflies that many growers and consultants have experienced seeing them move from one area to another this week. During this time of defoliation whiteflies will either migrate to another nearby cotton field not being defoliated yet or they will seek refuge in nearby citrus, sunflowers, cabbage, and just about any other crop they can find some shelter and food in nearby. Growers with cotton along the river are experiencing this the most as some open cotton has lint stained from the sooty mold that can occur if whitefly populations get out of hand. I have some growers that are putting one last irrigation on their cotton to help mature out the top of the canopy. Those growers should really be on top of whiteflies or spray prior to irrigation to avoid stained cotton as the whiteflies continue to migrate out of fields being defoliated.



Figure 1: Cotton being harvested, and modules being made in background



Figure 2: Cotton stained from sooty mold due to heavy whitefly pressure



More field pictures from around the LRGV



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