



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

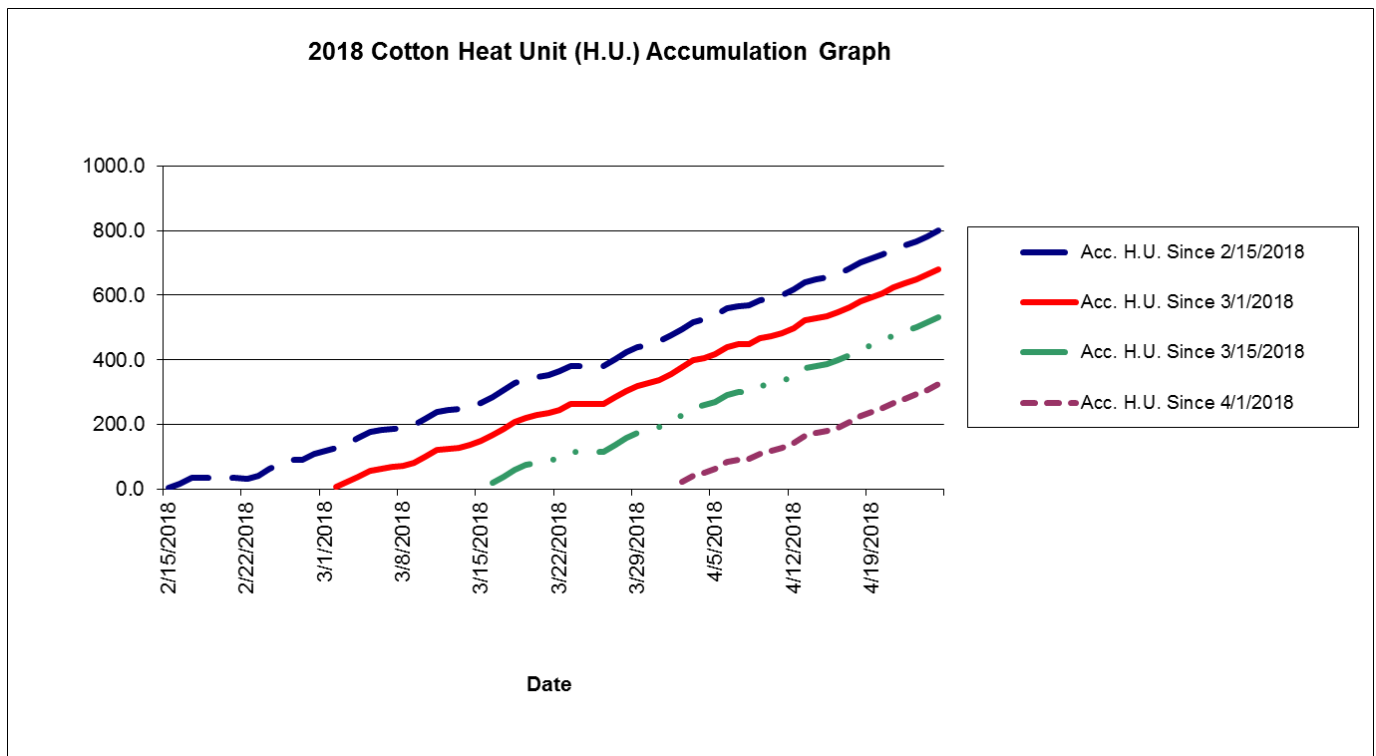
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 IPM Extension Agent

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General Situation

Hi Everyone! This week we received some rain on Wednesday night. Here at the Hiler station in Mercedes we received 1 inch of rain, and the rest of the Valley received anywhere from a tenth to an inch of rain; hit or miss. Currently our days have been in the high 80s to low 90s and our nights averaging out to the mid-60s. At our current date we are about 80 Heat Units lower than our 2017 heat unit numbers.



Heat Units Accumulated till now, 4-25				
Year	Since 2-15	Since 3-1	Since 3-15	Since 4-1
2018	799	680	532	324
2017	885	763	605	388

Cotton

This week in cotton we noticed very low aphid populations. Some fields we could tell had been sprayed and had great control. Majority of other cotton fields had a lot of beneficial predators managing aphid populations. Even the ones that were sprayed had great presence of lady bugs eating whatever was left of cotton aphids. There was a definite increase in lady bug larvae, and adults across all cotton fields.

Still seeing fleahopper activity in a lot of cotton fields, both nymphs and adults so please monitor for them and spray if warranted. It is during the first 3 weeks of squaring that finding 15-25 cotton fleahoppers (nymphs and adults) per 100 terminals may cause economic damage. Once bolls are present and the cotton begins to flower fleahoppers are Not considered a threat anymore.

Bollworms. In parts of Texas we have found evidence of bollworm resistant to one or more Bt genes in our Bt cotton. Fortunately for South Texas we have **not** seen or experienced increased bollworm pressure like in other areas of Texas. However, if you have a Bt cotton field that has bollworm pressure this year I would like you to please contact me, (Danielle Sekula, 956-968-5581) so we may collect the larvae. We would like to be ahead of any resistance issues and are asking for your cooperation in protecting our cotton crop.

Grain Sorghum

In grain sorghum we have sugarcane present in all three counties but overall populations have been very small to almost none in several sorghum fields throughout the Valley. However despite these low populations please monitor your sorghum fields especially if they have already headed out and are in flowering stage or have just been recently irrigated. We have seen many predators present as well as parasitism taking place keeping sugarcane aphid populations in check.

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