



## 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*

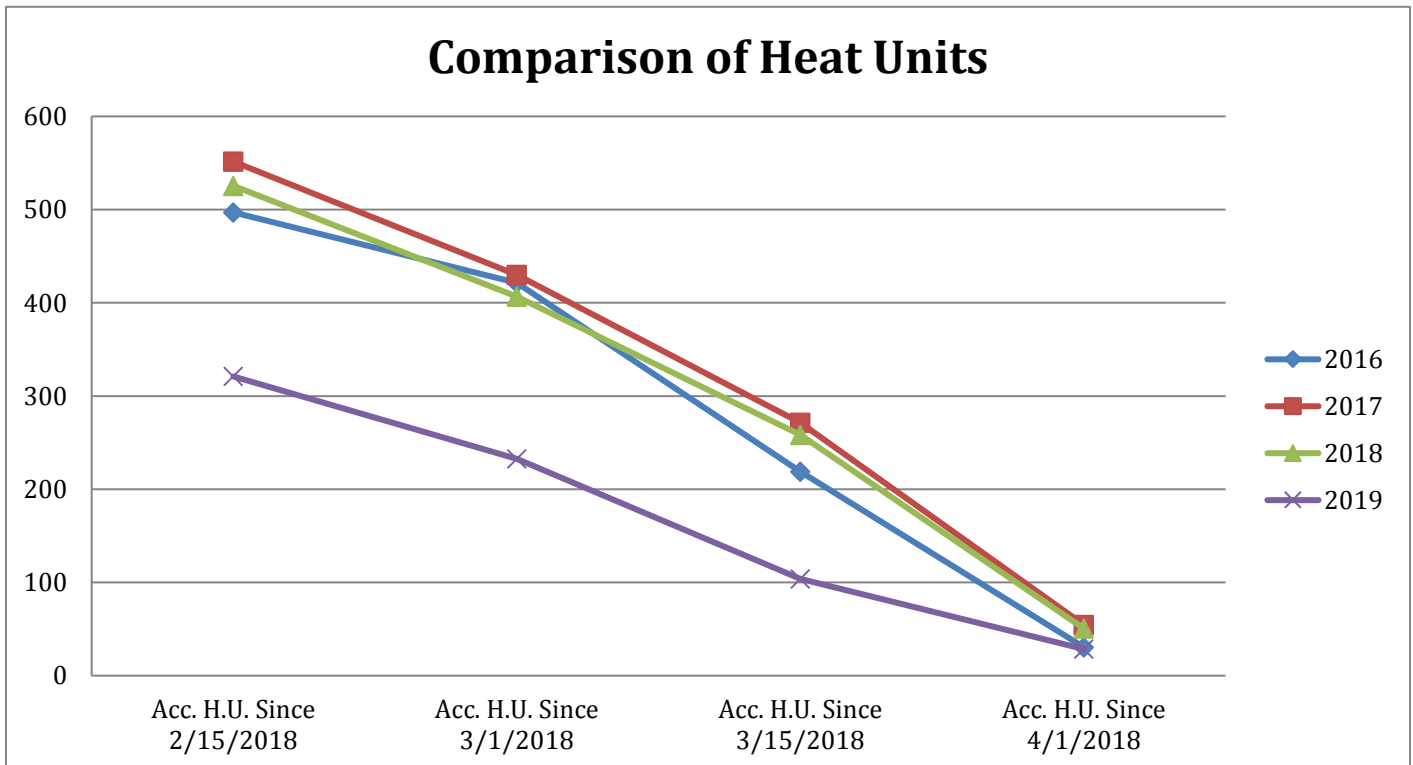
Danielle Sekula  
IPM Extension Agent

### General Situation

At the start of this week we were rained out across the Valley. Many areas including Donna, Pharr, Edinburg, Weslaco, Mercedes, La Villa, and others received 1.5 to 2 inches on Sunday with very light drizzle continuing into the week till Wednesday for the most part. We did drop down in temperature on Sunday and Monday with a low of 48F on those days but we quickly have gotten up to 69F at night and mid 80s during the day and forecasted for more heat next week.



Figure 1: Cotton in early squaring stages



### Cotton

Mainly seeing cotton in the first and second true leaf stages but did come across some cotton in the mid Valley area that was already squaring. Was able to get into some fields today and noticed cotton aphids increasing in the Monte Alto and La Sara areas. I am seeing quite a bit of ladybug adults making there way to feed on aphids as well as them laying eggs.

We have been approved for Section 18 label for Sulfoxaflor (Transform) in cotton for control of tarnished plantbugs. This Section 18 Emergency Exemption is effective March 1, 2019 and expires October 31, 2019. You can find the label as well as the Pest Cast and other info at:

<https://southtexas.tamu.edu/programs-and-services/ipm/>

### Grain Sorghum

Was able to get into some grain sorghum fields today that dried up a bit in the Monte Alto, Edinburg, La Sara areas. Sorghum in these areas was at head initiation and flag leaf stages (V6-V8), some of the most mature sorghum I've seen scouting so far. This sorghum was very clean so far and I did not pick up on any sugarcane aphids.

However, I was seeing a little bit of yellow sugarcane aphids on bottom leaves but not in numbers that warrant treatment and they actually attract ladybugs which is beneficial in case sugarcane aphids do arrive on the scene later in the season. With the moisture that we have received the past couple of weeks and with the heat increasing next week we need to be diligent in monitoring sugarcane aphids to prevent infestation.



Figure 2: Cotton aphids



Figure 3: Sorghum field

We have been approved for Section 18 label for Sulfoxaflor (Transform) for Control of Sugarcane Aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*) in Sorghum. This Section 18 Emergency Exemption is effective April 1, 2019 and expires November 30, 2019. You can find the label as well as the Pest Cast and other info at:

<https://southtexas.tamu.edu/programs-and-services/ipm/>



Figure 4: yellow sugarcane aphid

### **Sponsorship**

Past sponsors and new sponsors thank you so much for supporting our local IPM program. Really happy to be your IPM-agent and look forward to this growing season. We have several projects we are working on and hope to generate some good data this growing season to share with our growers. If anyone would still like to sponsor there is still time and your support is greatly appreciated. If you would like more information on the sponsorship levels or have any questions feel free to email or call me. Thank you.

#### **Danielle Sekula**

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