



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

Hot this week with scattered rain showers across the Valley. Showers really varied as some areas received 1 to 2 inches while other areas only received up to 0.5 inches. Dryland cotton that was very stressed last week was either at cutout this week or heavily blooming after the rains. The dryland cotton was showing a lot of shedding of small immature bolls and squares but many have good fruit retention and now the plant can just focus on filling out that fruit. Irrigated cotton was showing more fields with boll and square shedding this week too and most I have seen has good boll set. Overall though the cotton crop looks really good this year.

Cotton

This week in cotton we were finding many predators like lacewings and big eyed bugs present. Noticing some tarnished plantbugs in cotton but most fields were pretty clean from them and not at threshold. I had a couple reports of fields being treated for tarnished plantbugs this week. Threshold for tarnished plantbugs is 10 tarnished plantbugs/100 sweeps. Started to pick up on a couple of Verde bugs in a couple of fields in Raymondville area and seeing higher number in Bayview, Los fresnos and Rio hondo. Same thing with stinkbugs, seeing a couple of southern green stinkbugs every once in a while in cotton. Verde bugs along with tarnished plantbugs pierce immature bolls and squares with their mouth parts causing boll malformation to complete fruit loss. Whiteflies in cotton have increased quite quickly in the Edinburg, Pharr, Progresso, Rangerville, and Santa Rosa areas. If you have whiteflies present you will want to treat and get ahead of them to avoid sticky stained black cotton when the bolls open come July. Have been seeing a couple of bollworm eggs in some fields but have not seen damage or any bollworms present yet.

Grain Sorghum

Most sorghum is drying up for harvest. This week we saw many growers cutting grain after the rain cleared.

Sesame and Sunflowers

Sesame is growing nicely looking great after this last rain shower. Sunflowers are being harvested out in the McCook area right now as today we harvested our variety trail.



Figure 1: Sunflowers being harvested in McCook

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