



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

This week was hot, dry and very windy across the LRGV. Temperatures all week were mainly in the mid to lower 90s during the day and nights were high 60s or right at 70. We did receive some rain last Friday and Saturday around the Valley, but it was only about a tenth of an inch in most areas and moisture was gone by Monday. However, it was reported that McCook received rain Friday night of 1.5 to 5 inches in some areas.

Cotton

Many were planting cotton this week as acreage certainly went up and according to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication program as of yesterday Thursday March 26th, they were showing 115,831.7 acres of cotton planted in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Cotton across the Valley was pretty clean again this week except for a few exceptions in couple of areas. Most cotton I checked was at cotyledon, 2 to 3 true leaves, very few acres of 4 true leaf and the oldest was 6 true leaf cotton. Checking in Mid Valley to Lasara and along Military HWY was seeing a few

plants with cotton aphid adults and nymphs but again very light populations still as of this week. Along Military HWY in Progreso, Donna, and Pharr I did pick up on more thrips, however those fields that had high thrips were directly across from onions or close by. So again, if you have cotton along Military HWY and especially near onions please go out and check because more than likely you have a thrip infestation like what I saw in the Progreso area. Thrips will sap juices with their piercing sucking



Figure 2: Cotton aphids

mouth parts and the damage they cause on the underside of leaves will look silverish in color with a stippling effect. Thrips can dry out the leaves with their feeding and emerging seedlings in cotyledon stage can look very damage when you

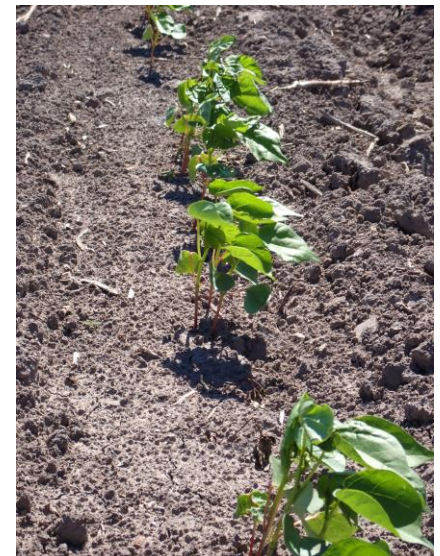


Figure 1: Cotton 4 true leaves



Figure 3: Thrips in cotton (nymphs)



Figure 4: Red spidermites in cotton

have high winds kicking up dust and sometimes cotton can become a loss. With the high winds blowing so much dust and cotton being stressed from lack of rain I did pick up on a little bit of red spidermites in the mid valley around the Monte Alto and Elsa areas.

Spidermites can infest the underside of cotton leaves sucking juices drying out the leaves and make a webbing. I also picked up on one fleahopper adult in the Mid Valley in older

cotton just beginning to get pin head squares so next week will have to be on the look out for them as well. Despite these sightings the overall cotton crop was generally clean for now.



Figure 5: Adult fleahopper

Grain Sorghum

I scouted several fields of grain sorghum this week and what I noticed was along Military HWY around Progreso and the La feria areas of this stretch of highway I picked up on the first winged sugarcane aphid adults and a few nymphs in V7 sorghum but just beginning to see them. The rest of the Valley, mid Valley (Elsa, Monte Alto, Lyford, Lasara, and Raymondville) I found no sugarcane aphids and overall sorghum looks pretty clean this week as well.

For everyone's information:

EPA Re-evaluated Sulfoxaflor products recently and now sorghum, citrus, cotton and other crops have been added to the current label of Sulfoxaflor containing products.

So the Section 18 for cotton (tarnished plant bug) and sorghum (sugarcane aphid) are no longer needed when using Sulfoxaflor so please see new label attached in this email.

Sponsorship

We are still taking sponsorships so 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.

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Have a great weekend everyone and stay safe and well. Take care.