



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

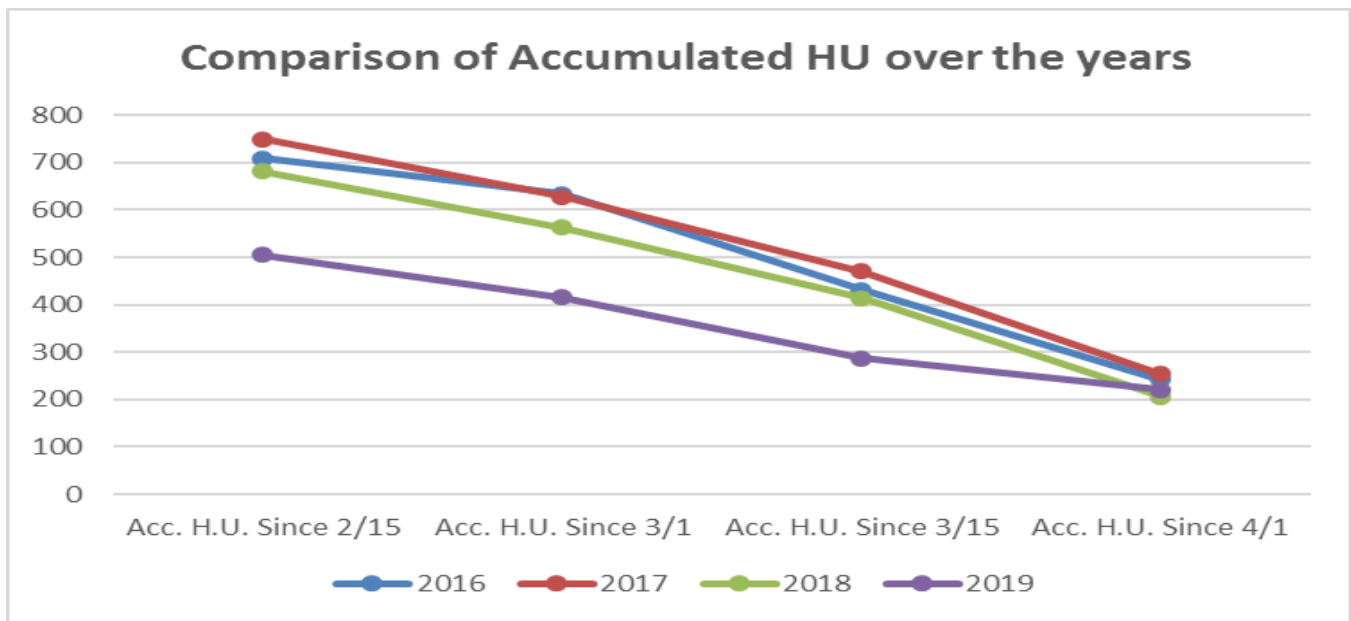


Figure 1: HU chart comparing years

Days behind than in the previous 3 years in relation to Heat Units				
	Since 2-15	Since 3-1	Since 3-15	Since 4-1
	18 days	15 days	11 days	1 day

Figure 2: Days behind

Across the Lower Rio Grande Valley many growers were seen this past week making herbicide, or pesticide applications or cultivating. Weather temperatures have been mainly in the high 80s and in the mid-60s at night. We've had a couple of rain spells bringing a tenth of an inch in some areas with some days having wind gusts of up to 35mph. When looking at the heat unit graph comparing previous years (Figure 1) to this year (purple line) I calculated how many days we are behind in relation to heat units and according to Figure 2, for those who planted early on we are about 2 to 3 weeks behind than previous years. In Figure 3, you will see the current accumulated heat units for this year.

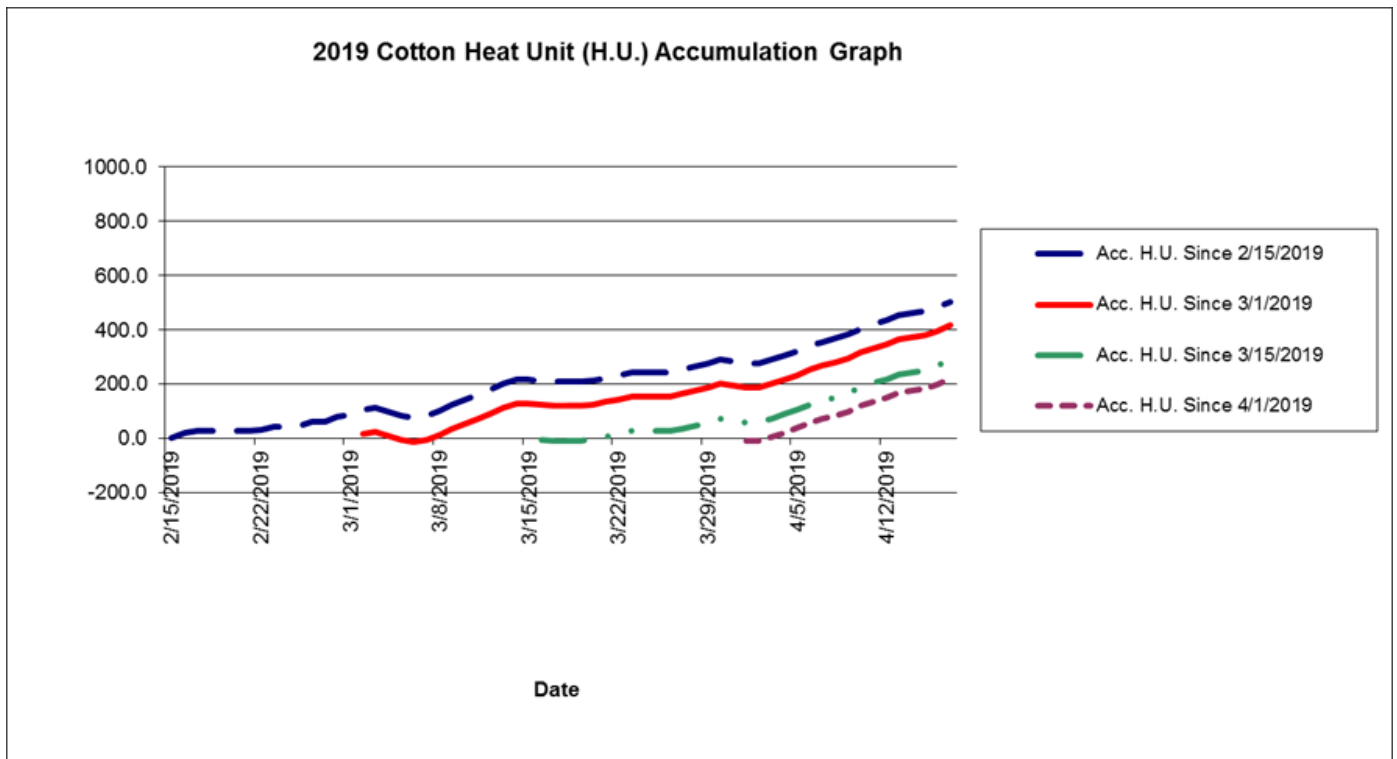


Figure 3: Current heat unit chart for 2019

Cotton

According to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication program as of April 17th they currently have 196,040 acres planted in cotton that are “found”, and traps deployed on. It is very important if Producers do not have traps deployed on a field planted in cotton to please call one of our local Boll weevil eradication offices and report so that they can begin monitoring as early as possible. Many were planting cotton last week and continued to plant this week as well.



Figure 4: Cotton in Valley 4 to 6 true leaves, barely putting on pinhead squares

Majority of cotton looks really good as some two weeks ago had been riddled with *Alternaria* on the cotyledon leaves (Figure 5) due to all the moisture received and cold but now look much better as the heat we have received the last two weeks helped hinder it and is now grown to 4 true leaves. As far as pests go in cotton noticing that cotton aphid populations continue to



Figure 6: Cotton aphid

build up fast in the mid Valley around Edcouch Elsa, Edinburg, Monte Alto, La Villa areas

(Figure 6). Throughout the Valley though noticing very light populations of cotton aphids. However I am noticing some parasitism going on as well as our usual predators (ladybugs and scymini beetles) feeding on aphids. Where some of the older cotton just started squaring, we did pick up on some cotton fleahopper adults (Figure 7) but have yet to see any nymphs (was so windy I might have missed them). Most cotton though around the Valley has yet to start really squaring and is still in the early stages.



Figure 5: Alternaria on cotton



Figure 7: Cotton fleahopper adult (two of them on leaf)

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

We have been diligently monitoring grain sorghum across the Valley and I'm happy to report that we have really only seen a handful of sugarcane aphids in the majority of all the fields. I've seen more yellow sugarcane aphids on the lower leaves and green bugs in the swirls if anything. Of course, neither have populations worth spraying and their presence have been good since I have noticed predators (ladybugs and syrphids) have been present early on controlling them, in low numbers but consistently have been present feeding. I assume that if any sugarcane aphids were there they have been eaten by some of these predators. Also, I noticed in one field we were checking some parasitism as well which is great to see. We will continue to monitor for them and give updates.

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/>

Corn and Sesame

Corn looks good and clean so far with some of the early corn planted just starting to tassel out this week. Noticed some good sesame stands along the river and in the mid Valley. As some growers are just starting to plant sesame while some are having to replant in areas where too much moisture was received.

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.

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