



## 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

Volume XLII

Issue 3, April 3, 2020

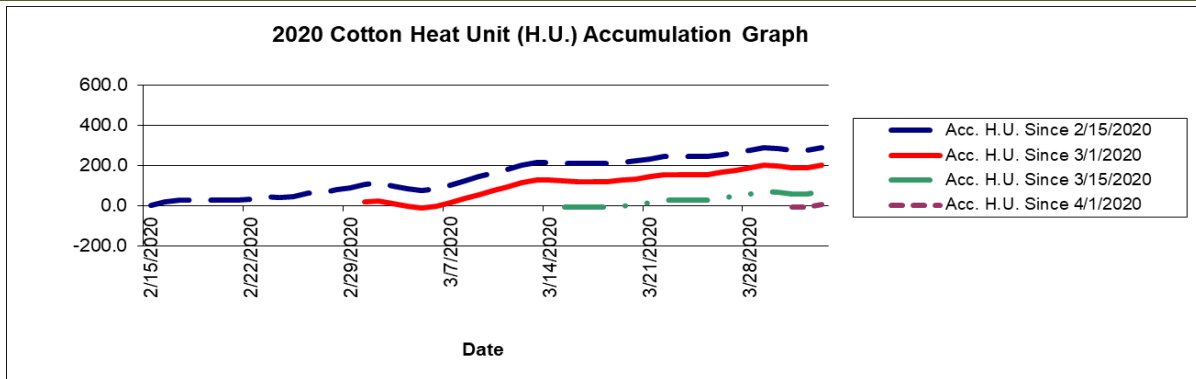


Figure 1: 2020 Heat Units Chart

### General Situation

Another hot and windy week across the LRGV. Our heat units are well ahead of even our normal years (2017, 2018, blue and red lines) and quite warmer this year (2020 is the purple line in Figure 2 below) compared to last year (2019 is green line). Please refer to Figures 1 for just 2020 HU and Figure 2 for all years. \*\*Also in the LRGV I learned late today due to coronavirus their has been a face mask mandate that anyone in public/outside needs to be wearing a face mask, so please even us out in the field in remote areas will be required to wear a face mask or might face possible fines. Please check your local county, city and work accordingly. Just take care everyone.

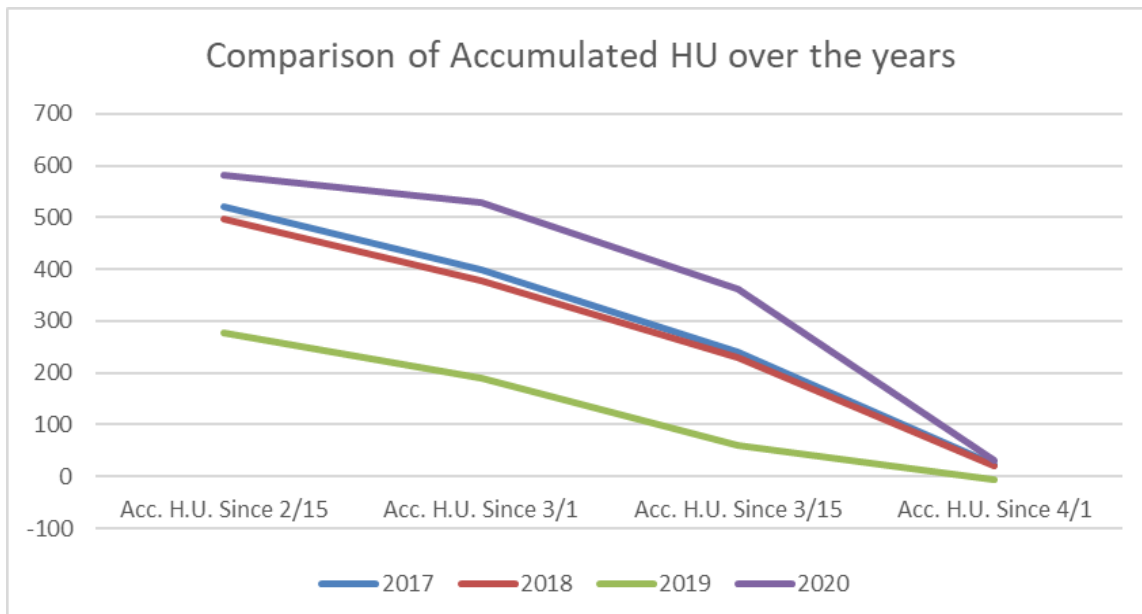


Figure 2: Comparison of Heat Units

### Cotton

According to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication program as of today cotton acreage is right at 151,829 acres across the LRGV. Seeing even more seedling cotton emerge this week and so far not seeing a lot of pests.

Cotton overall across the Valley was clean, seeing the same suspects as last week. Still picking up on light cotton aphid populations across the Valley, but I did hear of some cotton being treated for high aphid populations in the Mid Valley so be mindful of that. Also, aside from seeing high thrips populations along Military HWY this week same as last week, I was finding high thrips populations in La Feria cotton as well when I hadn't seen them there the week before. Thrips will sap juices with their piercing sucking 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 have high winds kicking up dust and sometimes cotton can become a loss. Only picked up on one fleahopper this week after checking several fields but will be looking diligently for them in the next weeks as cotton continues to mature quickly, and squaring will be upon us soon. Other than that cotton is looking pretty good.



Figure 3: Thrip adult on bottom and thrip nymph on top

### Grain Sorghum

I did pick up on a few sugarcane aphids in sorghum in Santa Rosa area which did not surprise me since we have had such continuous high winds. In the previous weeks I had only seen sugarcane aphids along the river but do be informed they have migrated into mid valley. However, populations are very little at this time.

For everyone's information:

2020 ANNUAL MANDATORY **DICAMBA TRAINING**

SIGN UP FOR COMPUTER BASED TRAINING: SIGN UP AT:

<https://training.roundupreadyxtend.com>

See attached pdf flyer.



Figure 4: Pregnant alate (winged SCA) with SCA nymphs (babies, 4 of them)

### 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.

**Danielle Sekula**

**Extension Agent- IPM**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension/ District 12

2401 East Highway 83/ Weslaco, TX 78596

Tel. 956. 968.5581 ext. 5608

[Danielle.Sekula@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Danielle.Sekula@ag.tamu.edu)

## Thank You 2020 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors thus far!

### Diamond



BASF-FiberMax-Stoneville  
Bayer-DeltaPine-Dekalb  
Corteva-PhytoGen  
Farmers Crop Insurance  
FMC Agricultural Solutions  
Sesaco



### Platinum



Nutrien Ag Solutions



### Gold



Cameron County Farm Bureau  
Capital Farm Credit  
Texas Sorghum Producers  
Valley Co-op Oil Mill



### Silver



Adams Farms  
RGV Gin Company  
Ross Gin  
Valley Ag Insurance Services  
Willamar Operating Co.



### Bronze



Bennack Flying Service, Inc.  
Vital Fertilizers



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