



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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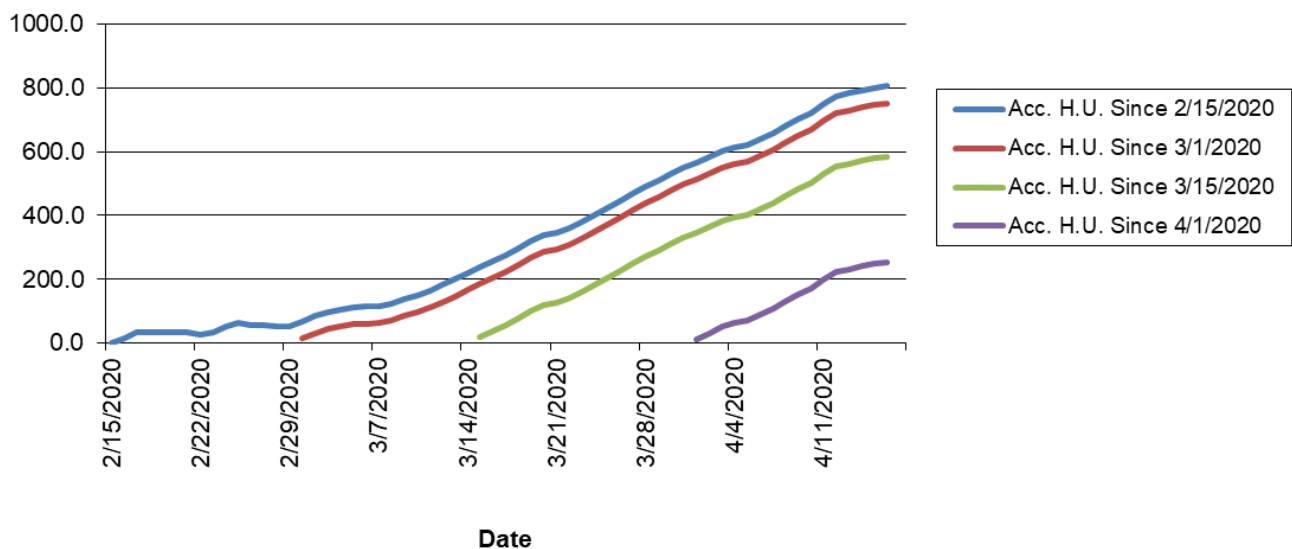
General Situation

This week was cloudy and overcast as we scouted throughout the Valley. Last Sunday was the hottest day of the year so far for the Valley reaching a temperature of 102F, only to drop down to the high 70s for all this past week. Was a fresh breezy week scouting the Valley but it looks like starting tomorrow and into the week we will be back in the 90s. Current Heat Units for 2020 growing season are:



Year	Acc. H.U. Since 2/15	Acc. H.U. Since 3/1	Acc. H.U. Since 3/15	Acc. H.U. Since 4/1
2020	805	752.5	585.5	254.5

2020 Cotton Heat Unit (H.U.) Accumulation Graph



Cotton

According to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication program as of April 16th cotton acreage is now at 161,103 acres across the LRGV and it seems there is still a little bit of planting still going on as final acreage is expected to change.

As far as pests in cotton this week we did see some fields that had high consistent cotton aphid pressure at the growing point on cotton just putting on pin head squares in the Mid Valley areas around Mercedes, La Feria, and Combs areas that were on their way to being sprayed and then reports of cotton fields already being treated for cotton aphids. We did pick up



Figure 1: Cotton aphids and yellow ladybug eggs



Figure 3: Adult Ladybug in cotton

on a handful of cotton fleahopper adults and suspect to see an increase in numbers next week and see some nymphs as more cotton starts to square, but for now seeing very low pressure if any at all. Thrips pressure in emerging cotton in Willacy and Cameron was very low to none, very clean. Mid Valley I saw more thrips on older 6 true leaf cotton but that's way past the stage for treatment and

generally the rule of thumb is to treat for thrips at cotyledon to 2 true leaf cotton if high numbers of thrips present. Refer to Table 3, (Figure 4). Also noticing more predators starting to build up while scouting cotton (Figures 2, and 3).



Figure 4: Scymnus larva (predator of aphids)

Table 3. Thrips action threshold

Cotton stage	Action threshold
<i>Emergence to</i>	
1 true leaf	1 thrips per plant
2 true leaves	2 thrips per plant
3 true leaves	3 thrips per plant
4 true leaves	4 thrips per plant
5-7 leaves or squaring initiation	Treatment is rarely justified.

Figure 2: Table from Managing Cotton Insects in Texas, 2018, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension & Research

Grain Sorghum

Saw lots of sorghum flowering mainly in Willacy and Cameron counties. Still only seeing a couple of sugarcane aphids here and there, nothing that warrants treatment. Finding sugarcane aphids in all 3 counties but very low to minimal numbers, if any.

Corn

Lots of corn already in the tasseling and silking stages across the Valley.



Figure 6: Corn



Figure 5: Sorghum flowering

Sesame

Sesame is starting to emerge around the Valley. Saw some pretty stands out in McCook yesterday. In other areas around La Villa had good emergence but then had some issues with cutworms taking down some of the sesame, so be on the lookout for cutworms.



Figure 8: Sesame emerging



Figure 7: Cutworm in seedling sesame

Sunflowers

Sunflowers coming along nicely in the McCook area as they will probably be spraying for head moth in the next coming weeks once blooming begins.



Figure 9: Sunflowers

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