



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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Cotton

This week in cotton saw many fields in full bloom and many fields are squaring nicely. There is some later planted cotton just barely putting on pinhead squares. Many fields of cotton were again being irrigated this week or are drying up from irrigation. Still seeing some heavy cotton aphid pressure on the younger cotton at 6 true leaves. Right now the main pest in cotton are fleahoppers as we saw an increase in pressure this week. Many cotton fields in Sebastian, Lyford, and Monte Alto areas had increase in fleahoppers (20-30%) as I picked up on many nymphs around those areas. In Raymondville, and Lasara I wasn't really seeing any fleahopper pressure, was pretty clean. In the Edinburg area I barely started to see maybe 5-10% fleahopper pressure mainly on cotton drying up from being irrigated. Cotton fleahopper adults



Figure 1: Cotton field in full bloom



Figure 2: Adult fleahopper

(Figure 2) are a pale grey/green ghostly color about 1/8 inch long and move pretty quickly when you walk up on them while checking. Fleahopper nymphs (Figure 3) are a bright lime green color and you will find them at the growing point on your pinhead squares as they sometimes too are hard to spot but you will notice their erratic fast behavior. Fleahopper adults and nymphs like to feed on the

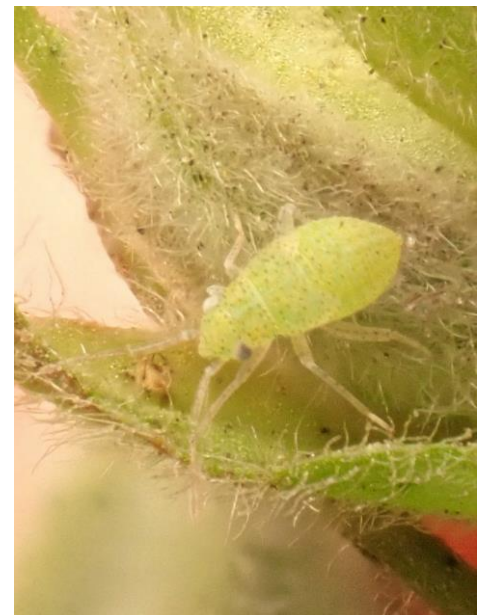


Figure 3: Fleahopper nymph

squares by sucking the juices causing cotton squares to just dry up, turn brown and fall off so will be important to monitor populations the next few weeks diligently especially in later planted cotton. Still seeing adult whiteflies in cotton increasing in Monte Alto, Hargil and Edinburg areas which I believe they are migrating from the watermelons being

harvested right now. Seeing sporadic red spidermite pressure from time to time but very spotty and hopefully they will be gone if we receive some rain this weekend. For more information on spray treatments to be used in controlling cotton pests please check out:

<https://agrifecdn.tamu.edu/texaslocalproduce-2/files/2018/07/Managing-Cotton-Insects-in-Texas.pdf>

Grain Sorghum

Many fields with moderate to high sugarcane aphid pressure this week as I believe we are at its peak in the life cycle. If you have sorghum right now that is flowering or in soft dough stage and just irrigated you will need to make sure your sugarcane aphid pressure is low as we saw many fields throughout the valley experiencing high sugarcane aphid pressure. Some fields had very good build up of predators and didn't need to be sprayed but then there were other sorghum fields with a lot of glistening from sca feeding and too high of populations for predators to keep up, those fields will need to be sprayed. There are three products you can use to control SCA: Sivanto, Transform, and Sefina. All three have been proven to show good control when applied on sorghum for sugarcane aphid (SCA) pressure. Also building in sorghum this week was headworms. Saw many fields along the river and in the mid valley with 1 corn earworm per sorghum head. Many fields however were about 75% in hard dough stage but for those fields still mainly in soft dough stage you may need to check and spray for headworm pressure. We did notice midge pressure in the mid Valley mainly around Weslaco and Mercedes area in flowering sorghum but I didn't see many midge at all in the north part of the valley.



Figure 4: Sugarcane aphids and blue parasitized sugarcane aphids

*For more information on pests in Valley crops please check out and follow my new colleague Extension Entomologist Dr. Holly Davis's blog:

<https://rgvbugblog.blogspot.com/>

***Happy Mother's Day to all the mommas out there!

Have a great weekend.

Take care,

Danielle Sekula



Dr. Holly Davis Extension Entomologist for the LRGV

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