



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

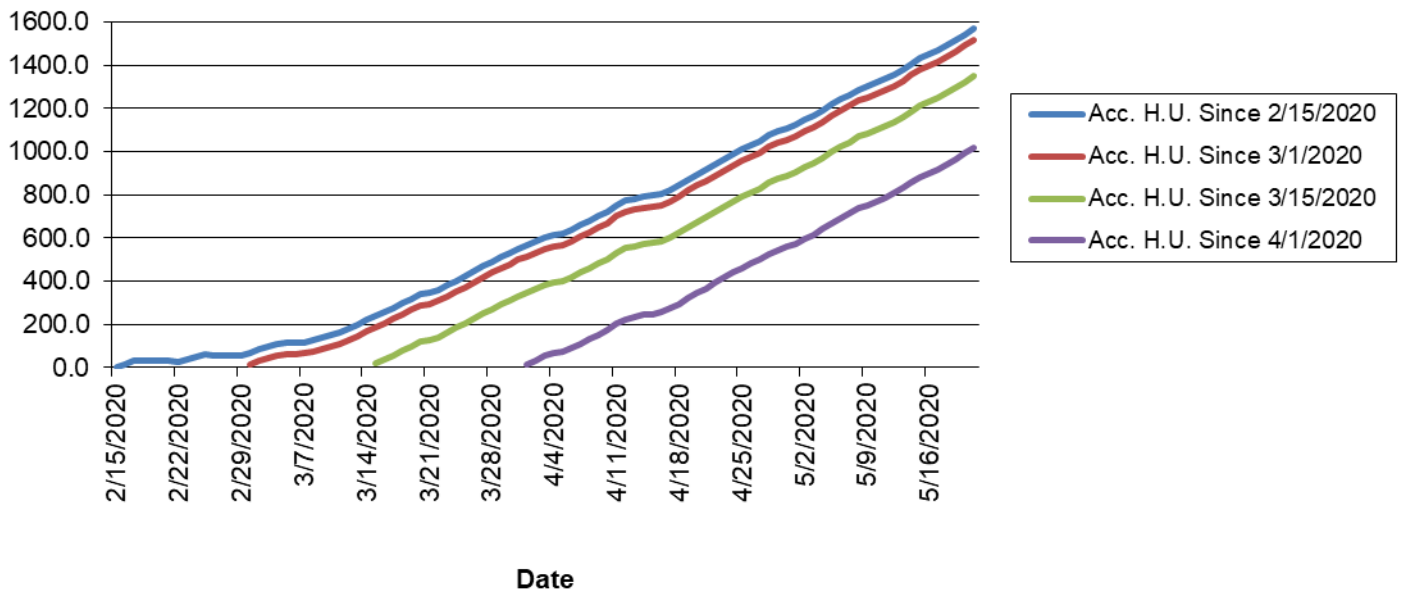
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General Situation

This past Saturday May 16th brought some rainfall to the whole Valley where Hidalgo county received 1 to 2 inches of rain in some parts whereas in Cameron and Willacy counties received 1 inch of rain. Tuesday and Thursday, we received trace amounts of rain in mainly Cameron and Willacy counties. Very hot and muggy across the Valley.

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



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	1568.5	1516	1399	1018

Cotton

Cotton is blooming everywhere with a lot of cotton already reaching or right at cutoff stage. Still seeing whitefly pressure along the river. Populations did calm down in some areas as many growers continue to spray to control them with many on their second application. In the mid Valley seeing whiteflies building as many are starting to spray for early control. Cotton aphids have plummeted this week as we saw a sharp decrease in populations and many were being controlled by natural predators or fungus, however there still are those isolated fields that were infested with cotton aphids but for the most

part cotton aphids were little to none throughout the Valley. I did pick up on some fleahopper activity in the Santa Rosa area and on our late cotton in Lyford, however majority of cotton checked this week was very clean and had no fleahopper activity whatsoever. Verde bugs were spotted this week in the Bayview area and will see next week if we see an increase in activity.

Grain Sorghum

More sorghum fields being harvested this week as majority of sorghum fields are either in soft dough stage or hard dough stage. I saw a decline in sugarcane aphid populations as well as many fields were sprayed the last 2 weeks and now there is an abundance of natural predators feeding on them (lady bugs, lacewings, syrphids) and also lots of parasitism going on (blue aphid and tan mummies). However was picking up on heavy midge in the Mercedes and La Feria areas on late planted sorghum that was flowering so be mindful of that and spray if treatment needed.



Thank you to those who have served as we remember the ones who gave all this weekend. Have fun and be safe. Thank you.



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*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/>

Thank you.