



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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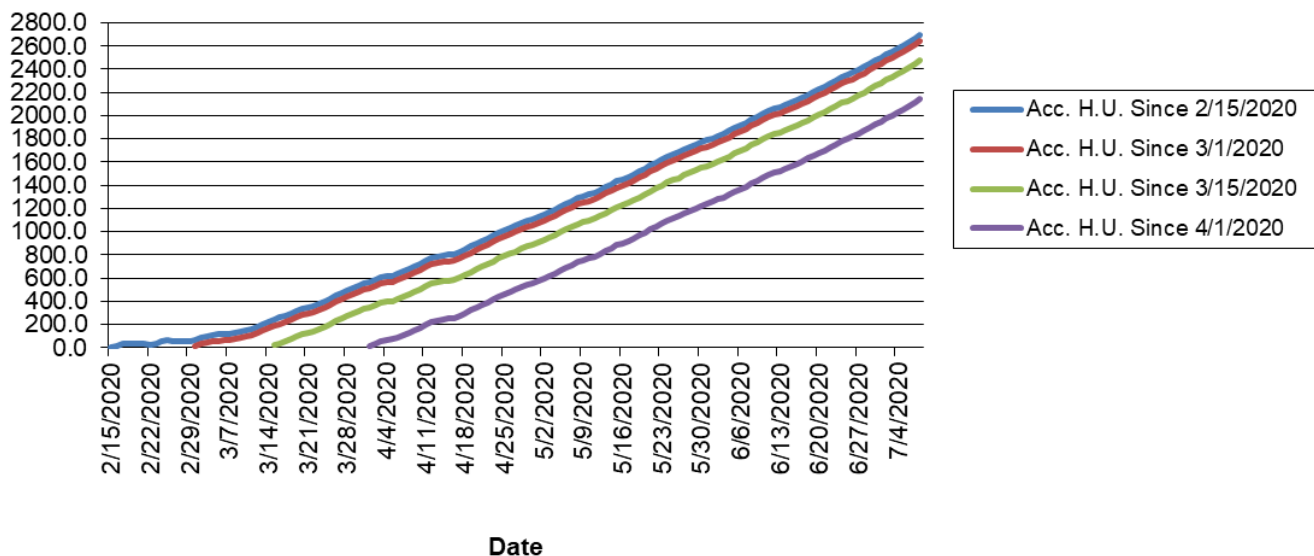
Volume XLII

Issue 15, July 10, 2020

General Situation/ Harvest

Another very hot and windy week. This week we had temperatures ranging from 98 -101 F and our nights have been steadily at 78-80 F. We are forecasted for more intense heat next week with temperatures forecasted to be at 102- 104 F. Growers have been harvesting corn and grain sorghum diligently for the last few weeks trying to finish up harvest. Both grain sorghum and corn yields have varied due to the drought we had early on and then rain showers in some areas and light rain fall in others. In irrigated grain sorghum I have heard yield ranging anywhere from 2300- 5000 lbs./ acre. Most irrigated sorghum varieties though seem to be between 3000 and 4000 lbs./ acre. In dryland sorghum yields have been between 1200- 2600 lbs./ acre. In irrigated corn yields have ranged from 5,000-10,000 lbs./acre. For irrigated corn it seems that some of the highest yielding corn was planted behind vegetables. In dryland corn yields have been between 2200-3900 lbs./ acre.

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



Heat Units				
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	2693	2640.5	2473.5	2142.5



Figure 1: Open cotton bolls

Cotton

We are seeing a lot of open and cracked bolls throughout the Valley's cotton. In both dryland and irrigated cotton boll set looks very good; in some varieties, plants are falling over from heavy boll set. Most growers are a week to 3 weeks from applying a defoliant while others are further behind. Despite the maturity of cotton in the Valley we are still experiencing heavy pest pressure in some areas, but most the Valley's cotton fields are very clean. In La Feria and Mercedes areas I was picking up on some medium to high whitefly pressure depending on what field cotton you were in. For late season cotton it is important to monitor and keep whitefly pressure under control to avoid the sticking honeydew they secrete which then causes sooty mold to grow and can stain cotton lint. In La Feria and Rio Hondo was seeing a few Verde bug in late season cotton but for most fields'



Figure 2: Cotton lint stained by black sooty mold in a cotton field infested with whiteflies

bolts are mature and not soft enough for them to puncture.

In the past 3 weeks I have received reports of high thrips pressure in cotton from several crop consultants. It was very interesting because we have never experienced late season thrips pressure like this in cotton and it wasn't until this week that you could really see the damage this late season thrips had done. The cotton field's leaves were fed on so much by these thrips that the leaves began to turn bronze looking and some fields were so severe that they looked as if defoliant had been applied when there had not been.

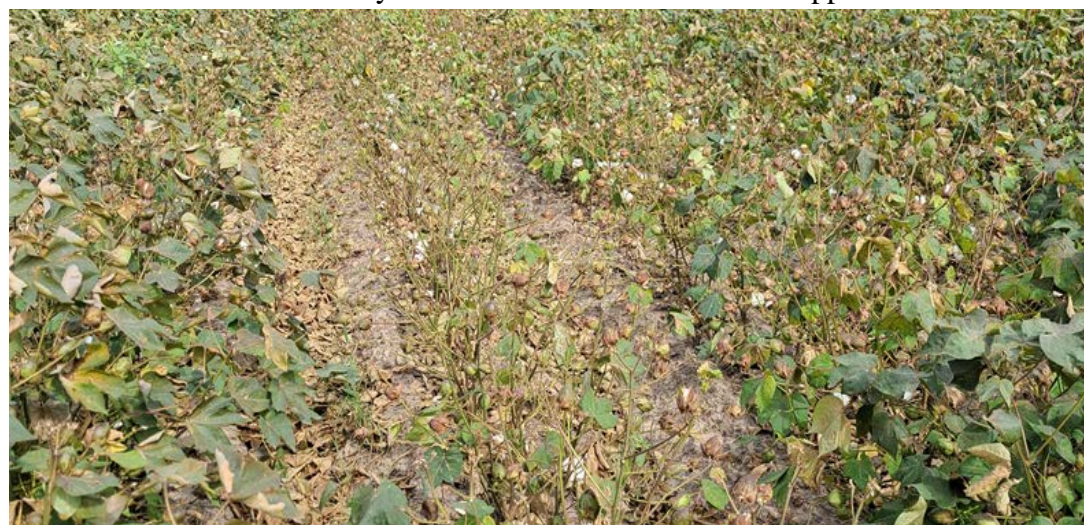


Figure 3: Cotton field defoliated by heavy thrip pressure

My colleague, Dr. Holly Davis, and myself have looked at several fields, collected thrips and have made a preliminary identification but are waiting on confirmation from an out-of-state specialist and will get that info out soon. In the meantime, know that this is indeed

thrip damage. These thrips are more yellow in color and like to feed right along the undersides of the

midveins really tucking up under hiding on the cotton leaf and as they feed they turn the leaf a bronze/brown color, very different from early season thrips that turn the leaves greyish/silver. Most growers will not be spraying since they are a week away from defoliation. Other growers along the river though who had been experiencing these thrip populations in the last 3 weeks have had to spray and are receiving good control with acephate (Orthene) and dicrotophos (Bidrin).



Figure 4: Bronzing done by thrip feeding on the undersides of cotton leaves



Figure 5: thrips on cotton leaves, photo on left is a close up showing 4 thrips and photo on right you can see several yellow specs, those are thrips running around feeding on the leaf

Sesame

In sesame many fields across the Valley were very clean. Most are past or right at cut out. We do however have late season sesame that was planted, and some had to be sprayed for sesame leafroller in the Hargill area this week. In late season sesame we will have to be on the lookout for mirid plantbug pressure as I saw some mirids feeding at the growing point in late season sesame and populations of mirids in past years are high in the month of July. For those who did not see in last week's Pest Cast, Dr. Holly Davis has made a very interactive 6-minute video showing SLR in the field and explaining their biology and how to manage them. You can click on the link below to view this SLR video:

<https://agrilifeinsectimages.smugmug.com/Holly-Davis-Videos/i-SbZ93CW/A>

Also sign up for Dr. Holly Davis blog for more pest updates at: <https://rgvbugblog.blogspot.com/>

******Please sign up and Pre register for Texas AgriScience virtual field day to receive 3 CEU's :**

Dear Producer,

Recent developments in the spread of COVID-19 pandemic have prompted our agency to make adjustments on how we handle in-person programs, it goes without saying that this has ultimately affected our traditional field days that have been held in the past.

In an effort to maintain social distancing we will be hosting a virtual field day via **Zoom** on **July 16, 2020** starting at 9:00 AM.

The AgriScience Field Day is a pre-recorded field day that took place at Texas AgriScience headquarters in June.

Several topics of discussion include:

- Industry Professionals will discuss new technologies in grain sorghum and cotton
- Extension Specialists will describe pests encountered in this year's crops

A total of **3 CEU's** will be provided to those who are present during the Zoom conference.

There will be a Q&A during the time of the conference.

To pre-register please click on the following link - <https://bit.ly/2020AgriScienceFieldDay>. **Registration deadline is July 14th, this Tuesday**

A link to Zoom will be sent, *the day before the training*, to all who pre-registered. On the day of the event, you will use that link to sign in from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Attached is agenda with additional topics of discussion.

For any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at (956) 361-8236.

Thank you,

Vidal H. Saenz

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Thank you.