



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

Hot, sunny week with temperatures in the 90s for the LRGV. We had a little bit of cloud cover throughout the week and received light showers along the river and in the Brownsville, Los fresnos areas yesterday. Very little to no wind made it great spraying conditions for our growers as they continued to catch up on fields applying foliar sprays, herbicides and insecticides after last months rain.

Cotton

This week in cotton we have some active plant bug activity. I heard reports of fields treated for plantbugs along the river in the Los indios area and some in Rio hondo. I myself picked up on high Verde plantbug populations (many nymphs) in grain sorghum around the Los Fresnos area and when checking neighboring cotton fields I was finding lots of nymphs and some adult Verde bugs that moved in to feed on small dime sized bolls and squares. Verde plant bugs when feeding will pierce immature bolls and squares with their mouth parts causing boll



Figure 1: Adult Verde bug in cotton

malformation to complete fruit loss. They can reduce fiber quality since their feeding punctures will stain the lint inside the boll. Verde plantbugs if left untreated can have a real impact on yield. Verde plant bug adults (Figure 1) are about ¼ inch long in size and are light green in color with long antennae and red eyes and nymphs (Figure 2) are a very bright neon green color. Treat for Verde plant bugs when finding more than 20-25 bugs/100 plants or (1-2 bugs per 10 sweeps). Some growers were also spraying for fleahoppers as well as populations were moderate this week in some fields, and they wanted to protect the tops so they can fill out. We did see whiteflies present in some cotton in Edinburg and along the river but only very light populations. For control options for fleahoppers and Verde plant bugs go to page 33:



Figure 2: Verde plant bug nymph

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

Table 11. Insecticides Labeled for Control of Insect Pests of Cotton (continued)

Pest	Product Name/ Common Name	Active Ingredient/s	Formulated Rate (fl oz or oz/A)	lb AI/A	Acres Treated per gallon/lb
Cotton Fleahopper					
	Vydate C-LV 3.77	oxamyl	8-32	0.125-0.5	16-4
	Orthene 97	acephate [^]	4	0.244	4
	Acephate 90 Prill	acephate	4.4	0.248	3.64
	Intruder Max 70WP/Strafer Max	acetamiprid [^]	0.6-1.1	0.025-0.05	26.67-14.55
	Carbine 50WG	flonicamid	1.7-2.8	0.053-0.089	9.41-5.71
	Centric 40 WG	thiamethoxam	1.25-2.5	0.0313-0.0625	12.8-6.4
	Alias 4F	imidacloprid [^]	1-2	0.0313-0.0625	128-64
	Bidrin 8	dicrotophos [^]	4.0-8.0	0.25-0.5	32-16
Plant Bugs					
	Vydate C-LV 3.77	oxamyl	8-32	0.125-0.5	16-4
	Intruder Max 70WP/Strafer Max	acetamiprid [^]	0.6-1.1	0.025-0.05	26.67-14.55
	Acephate 90 Prill	acephate [^]	4.4-17.6	0.248-0.99	3.64-0.91
	Orthene 97	acephate	4-16	0.244-0.974	4-1
	Diamond 0.83 EC	novaluron	9-12	0.0584-0.0778	14.22-10.67
	Steward EC	indoxacarb	9.2-11.3	0.09-0.11	14-11.5
	Carbine 50WG	flonicamid	1.7-2.8	0.053-0.089	9.41-5.71
	Dimethoate 4E	dimethoate [^]	8	0.25	16.0
	Bidrin 8	dicrotophos [^]	4.0-8.0	0.25-0.5	32-16

Figure 3: Insecticide chart from Managing Cotton Insects of Texas

Grain Sorghum

Many growers are getting ready to harvest their grain sorghum and are putting out glyphosate. Some might start harvesting this weekend and some are set to get at it come Monday. Fields look pretty clean from sugarcane aphids again this week. The main pest still causing trouble are midge in flowering sorghum. We had several fields flowering this week and were picking up on 10 + midge/ head. Those who have sorghum flowering will probably need to spray at least twice for midge since midge populations are so high right now. During the single day of adult life, each female lays about 50 yellow-white eggs in the flowering spikelets of sorghum. The eggs hatch in 2 to 3 days. That’s why it’s important to go back and check for midge again 3 days after spraying and see if a new population emerged, if so then access the field and see if there is still a large percent of the field flowering and spray if needed. One midge per sorghum head warrants treatment. Still monitor for headworms and rice stinkbugs as there are still plenty activity from both pests as we have a lot of sorghum still in



Figure 4: Lots of Midge in

soft dough stage with some fields treated this week for headworm. Again for those growers who have both cotton and grain they are growing, if you are getting ready to harvest your sorghum field take a beat bucket and bang some of the mature heads to see if you have Verde plantbug populations present so that way you can treat your neighboring fields accordingly to protect it from Verde plant bug populations that might migrate out once sorghum harvested and attack your immature bolls in the cotton.

<https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2019/02/Managing-Insect-and-Mite-Pests-of-Texas-Sorghum-ENTO-085-2018.pdf>

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Thank you and have a great weekend.