



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

Started off the week with fields drying out and others dry enough that I saw growers getting after it and harvesting what fields they could get into of corn and sorghum left. However by Wednesday afternoon we started to receive down pours of rain that covered the whole Valley and areas got anywhere from 2-4 inches with reports of some of the heavier rain towards La Feria and Harlingen reaching up to 6 1/2 inches. So we are once again rained out for a few days but looks like sunny days ahead. We are still about 200 heat units behind previous years at this time now.

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
2018	2903	2784	2636	2428
2019	2846	2757.5	2629	2523.5
2020	3081	3028.5	2861.5	2530.5
2021	2643	2596	2459.5	2299

Figure 1: Heat Units accumulated till now for 2021 & previous years

Cotton

This week as we were scouting cotton in the Monte Alto area and along the river/Military Hwy from La feria to Pharr, we were finding moderate to high populations of whiteflies. This wasn't in every field and majority of Valley cotton looks very clean from pests but was still the most whiteflies I've seen all season in the areas mentioned. However, with the recent heavy rains I noticed that adult whiteflies have been misplaced and populations have been knocked back down for now. Still though it is good to be checking and monitoring for whitefly populations with majority of cotton plants having open bolls now we must protect the lint from any staining that can occur up until harvest time which is right around the corner. We are still picking up on a little bit of cotton aphids but nothing alarming. We are seeing a handful of plantbugs but again most cotton has established mature bolls that are impenetrable to these plantbugs, thus it is not an issue. Again, note that the conditions on the tops of the cotton leaves we are seeing are symptoms of two fungi- the *Alternaria* sp., and *Stemphyllium* sp., that are causing reddening in color and round lesions on the leaves, and this late in the season there is no reason for treatment as it will not affect your yield already established (Refer to Pest Cast 13 for photo & info on fungi in cotton).

Chille thrips was detected in a couple of cotton fields in the Pharr area along the river this week. I had extension entomologist Dr. Holly Davis confirm and they are indeed Chille thrips. We were both picking up on Chille thrips adults and expect an increase in populations come next week if we receive some high heat units. The Chille thrips were found on the new leaf/flush growth on the tops of the cotton plants and can cause a bronzing on the tops of the leaves and on the undersides where you will find them feeding along the mid veins. If you or your scout finds them in high populations, please call us so we can collect samples for research purposes before spray applications. In literature from Florida where Chille thrips efficacy trials have been done the research has shown that imidacloprid offered the best control of Chille thrips populations. Populations this week that we detected were low and were also set back from the recent rains.

Grain Sorghum

Seeing a decline this week in some areas for sugarcane aphids and it is due to growers treating their fields, lots of natural predators and just a natural decline in populations from the peak we saw last week. Most mature sorghum fields that were treated looked good and those that were not had some moderate to light sugarcane aphid populations. Now we did see glistening leaves and high populations of SCA in sorghum barely starting to boot in the Hargill and Lyford areas. So those with younger sorghum that will be reaching the booting stage or starting to boot I recommend going and checking to see if you have any SCA pressure, especially if you planted a non-tolerant variety.

Sesame

At this time not picking up on any pests of importance in sesame.

Announcements and links to other info:

*On July 29th at the Texas A&M University Higher Education Center at Tres Lagos in McAllen our Ag agents will be holding a **Pesticide License Applicator Training program**, see attached flyer for more details or contact your local county Ag agent.

Links provided by Sorghum Checkoff:

<https://www.sorghumcheckoff.com/news-and-media/newsroom/2020/11/30/pre-harvest-sprouting-and-weathering-of-sorghum/>

Video on Sugarcane Aphid Management 6 - Late Season Control <https://youtu.be/pxMGJAVWB-Y>

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