



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

Volume XLIII

Issue 15, July 30, 2021

General Situation

Harvest continued again this week for corn and grain sorghum as growers worked around some rain received on Wednesday. East part of the Valley received anywhere from 0.7" to 1.0" inches of rain while the west part of the Valley received 0.2"-0.5" inches of rain. Hot, humid, and muddy in most fields around the Valley with plenty of mosquitos to go with that. Seeing a lot of open boll cotton around the LRGV with majority of Valley at about 20-40% open boll and some early planted cotton at 70% open boll. With harvest right around the corner growers are thinking about boll openers and defoliant. Click on this link for info about harvest aids by Dr. Josh McGinty and Dr. Gaylon Morgan.

<https://agrilife.org/texasrowcrops/2015/08/03/preparing-for-the-2015-south-texas-cotton-harvest/>

Cotton

This week we are not really seeing many pests in majority of the Valley's cotton. It was very quiet and pretty clean. However we are still seeing some whitefly activity along the river (Mission to Los Indios) and in the Rangerville and San Benito areas. There were reports of a handful of fields that were treated for whiteflies this week. If we continue to receive high heat units there is a chance for whitefly populations to increase so continue to monitor for them up until defoliation. We are seeing some light Chille thrips populations in cotton along the river from Pharr to the Los Indios areas. Chille thrips can be found on the undersides of leaves that are the new leaf/flush growth on the tops of the cotton plants. Chille thrips can cause a bronzing on the tops of the leaves and on the undersides along the midvein where you will find them feeding. It has been reported that a couple fields were treated for thrips pressure this week.



Figure 1: Chille thrips damage on underside of cotton leaf, notice the bronze coloring along the midveins caused by their feeding

Grain Sorghum

There was a definite crash in sugarcane aphid (SCA) populations this week across the Valley. I was only finding high SCA populations in sorghum that was in booting stage, flowering stage, or soft dough sorghum where you would pick up on glistening leaves upon turning over leaves to see the infestation underneath. I picked up on high SCA populations in these stages of sorghum in and around the areas of Lyford, Sebastian, San Perlita, and Raymondville. This week I did not pick up on any midge populations, which was great. I did see plenty of rice stinkbugs while out scouting so those with soft dough sorghum please take a beat bucket with you and bang a few heads to see if you are averaging one or more per head

and treat accordingly.



Figure 2: High SCA populations

Thank You 2021 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors!

Diamond



- *BASF-FiberMax-Stoneville
- *Bayer-DeltaPine-Dekalb
- *Farmers Crop Insurance
- *FMC Agricultural Solutions
- *RegalAG
- *Sesaco
- *Wilbur-Ellis Co

Platinum



- *Corteva-PhytoGen
- *Nutrien Ag Solutions

Gold



- *Americot-NexGen
- *Cameron County Farm Bureau
- *Capital Farm Credit
- *Hidalgo County Farm Bureau
- *La Feria Co-op Gin
- *Simplot Grower Solutions
- *Texas Sorghum Producers
- *Valley Co-op Oil Mill

Silver



- *Adams Farms
- *Frisby-Bell Gin
- *RGV Gin Company
- *Rob See Co.
- *Ross Gin
- *Valley Ag Insurance Services
- *Willamar Operating Co.

Bronze



- *Bennack Flying Service, Inc.
- *Vital Fertilizers

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.