



## 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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### Cotton

Very hot weather in the LRGV as the grain sorghum and corn harvest finally wraps up and cotton harvest is in full swing now. Cotton harvest began last week and has been going strong as the high heat units (100°F days) has helped to open bolls and get harvest going off to a great start. As you drive through the LRGV you will see many cotton fields being defoliated from the river down to Raymondville. Yields vary greatly this year as the LRGV received over 40 inches of rain thus far for this growing season and it has impacted the growth of many fields in different areas but most cotton has good



Figure 1: Cotton defoliated

and fair boll loads. With many cotton fields already having been harvested and many more to be harvested in the coming weeks it is important to be vigilant on stalk destruction to avoid regrowth of hostable cotton. The deadline for cotton stalk destruction is September 1<sup>st</sup> and any cotton that remains hostable after this date will be in violation of regulations and subject to fees.

Another serious challenge that will be monitored is harvesting



Figure 2: Cotton being harvested in LRGV



equipment leaving Lower Rio Grande Valley area and traveling North into other Eradication Zones. Persons moving equipment will be responsible for equipment to be clean and not harboring weevils. For information within different zones on stalk destruction deadlines and equipment movement you can visit TDA or TBWEF websites for rules and regulations.

Hope everyone has a good and safe harvest.



Figure 3: Cotton Stalks being destroyed after harvest

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