



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 XLIV

Issue 4, April 29, 2022

General Situation

Main news this week is that the LRGV received some much-needed rain Monday night through yesterday. Over the last few days, the valley received anywhere from 1-3 inches that really benefited all our row crops. The bulk of the rain was received Tuesday morning and we had scattered showers Wednesday and Thursday in parts of the Valley making it difficult to get into fields and scout this week.

Cotton

Cotton across the LRGV is growing good and looks great after this rain. We have lots of cotton squaring in all three counties. As we scouted a little on Wednesday and today, what we are seeing is a definite increase in cotton aphids. I'm noticing moderate to high cotton aphid



Figure 2: Ladybug feeding on cotton aphids & yellow mass is ladybug eggs

populations in some cotton in the Lyford and Rio Hondo areas that I was able to get into. A lot of cotton fields are still very clean with light cotton aphid populations but please do check next week as populations will increase over the weekend with the higher temperatures and humidity. You will want to inspect for predators feeding on cotton aphids and see if it is necessary to spray. Too many cotton aphids congregating on the stem and feeding at the

growing point of pin head squaring cotton can hurt yield and sometimes those high infestations need to be controlled. I did not come across any fleahoppers this week. There is plenty of squaring cotton though and we will need to be on lookout for fleahoppers in coming weeks.



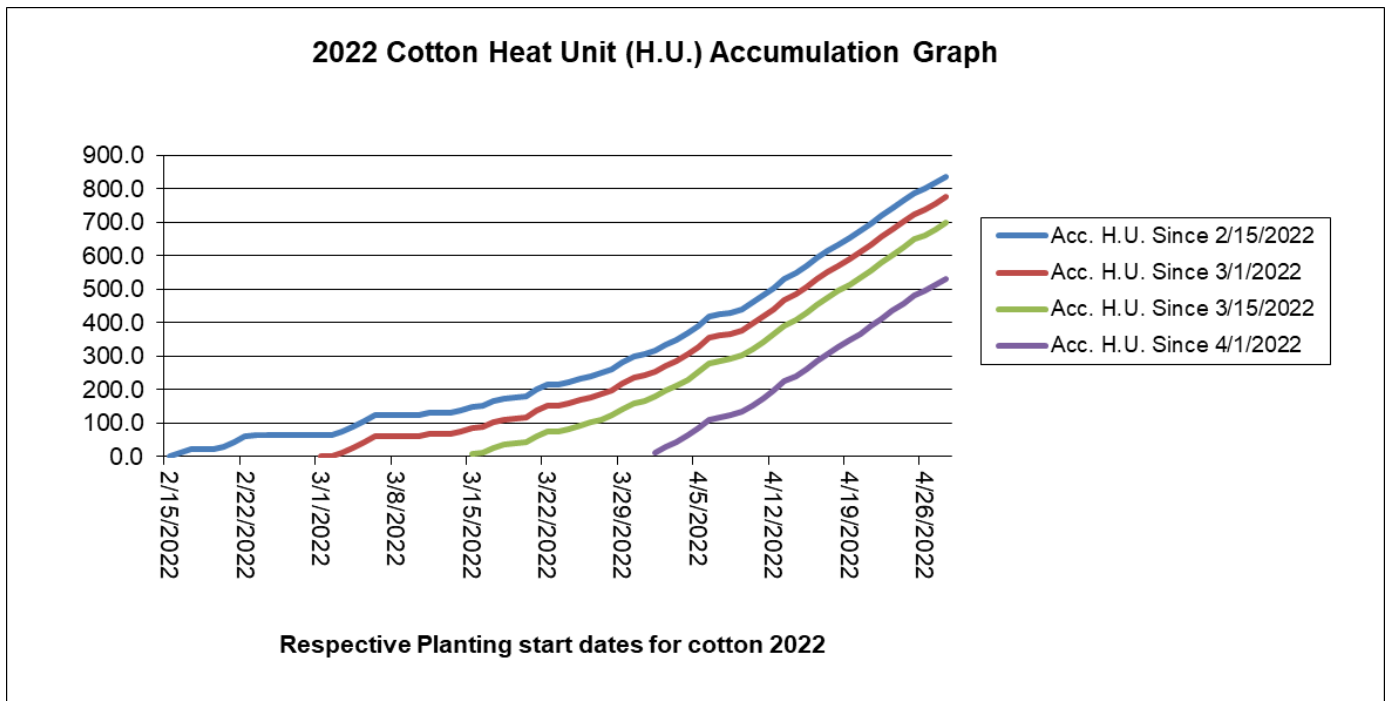
Figure 1: Several Cotton aphids feeding on squaring cotton

Grain, Corn

Came across some sugarcane aphids in commercial grain sorghum this week in the Rio Hondo, Lyford and Weslaco areas. I suspect there are more sugarcane aphids out there just too muddy to get into a lot of these fields. The populations of sugarcane aphids I came across were light and limited to a few leaves plus I did see predators already feeding on them. We have a lot of tolerant/resistant varieties growing that are looking very clean from SCA pressure as we have lots of sorghum that is still in the vegetative stages. I did look at some sorghum that was already flowering today and literally came across one midge. A lot of corn is silking in the valley and some corn earworm pressure has been reportedly treated in non- bt corn. I saw a little bit of corn earworm pressure in bt corn in the silks where the eggs had hatched.



Figure 3: Sugarcane aphids in commercial sorghum



| Accumulated Heat Units for Cotton 2022 | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Acc. H.U. Since 2/15 | Acc. H.U. Since 3/1 | Acc. H.U. Since 3/15 | Acc. H.U. Since 4/1 |
| 2022 | 837.5 | 774.5 | 698.5 | 531 |

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Figure 4: Sorghum in Rio hondo