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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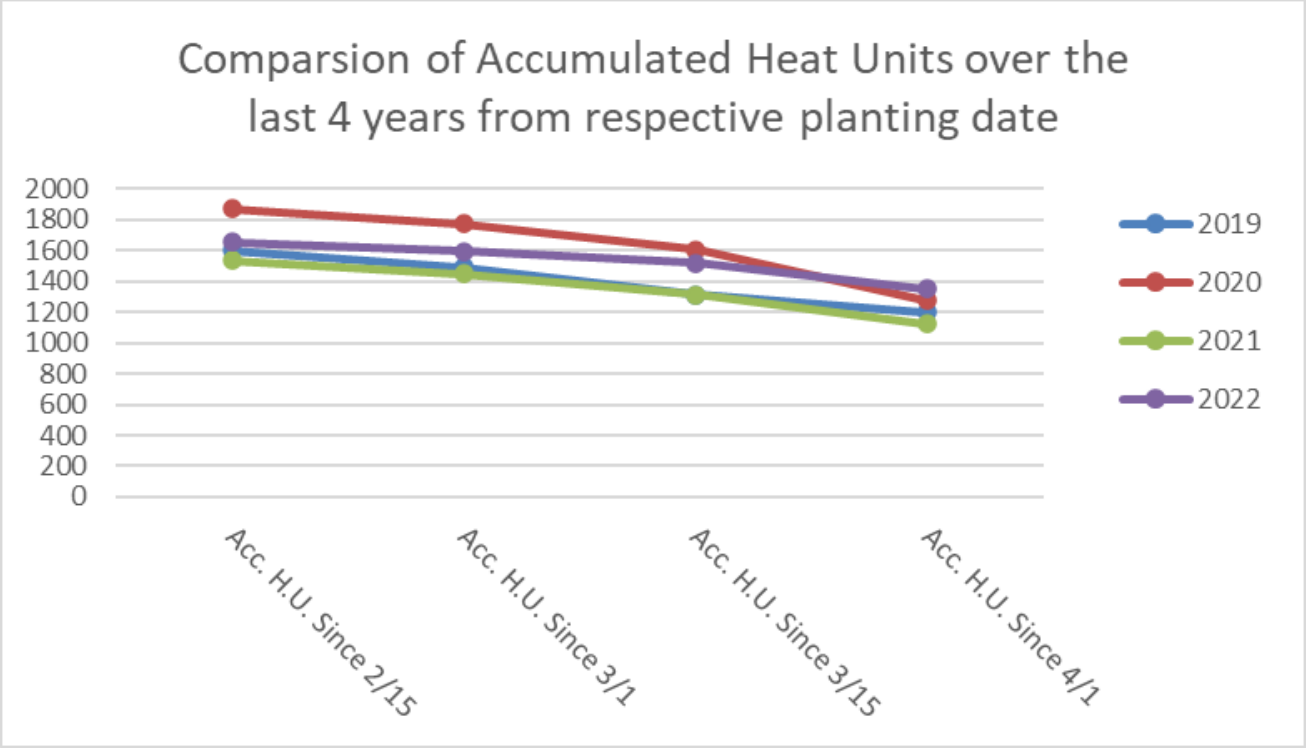
General Situation

Last week on May 24th we received 3-5 inches of rain valley wide with the McCook farmers unfortunately receiving significant hail damage to their row crops in the area. This week we have had high temperatures and a couple of scattered showers through the week. Heat units are building quickly, and row crops overall look good from recent rainfall.



Comparison of Accumulated Heat Units over the last 4 years

	Acc. H.U. Since 2/15	Acc. H.U. Since 3/1	Acc. H.U. Since 3/15	Acc. H.U. Since 4/1
2019	1603	1491	1316	1197
2020	1873	1775	1608	1277
2021	1536	1446	1315	1122
2022	1656	1593	1517	1349

Cotton

Lots of cotton in full blooming mode with plants anywhere from 8-5 NAWF, lots of squaring cotton as well. We had a significant crash in cotton aphids and spider mites' populations as the rains last week were hard enough to knock them off. We are still picking up on some chilli thrip pressure along the river in Pharr, Donna, La feria, Bluetown, and Los Indios areas. Chilli thrips (Figure 1) cause a bronzing of the

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leaves and can cause severe defoliation if left untreated. Preliminary efficacy work done on chili thrips in cotton conducted by Dr. Holly Davis last year in 2021 showed good control with current registered products (Figure 2). Main pest right now in cotton are fleahoppers. We are seeing lots of fleahopper adults and nymphs in high numbers causing some square blasting along the river and in spotted areas around the mid valley, as many growers have reported treating for fleahoppers this week. For more information on chille thrips and pictures of their damage caused please click on website below:

https://southtexas.tamu.edu/files/2022/05/chilli-thrips-in-cotton_2022.pdf

Figure 1: Chilli thrips adults, photo taken by Melinda Melo

2021 Chilli Thrips Insecticide Efficacy Trial – Hidalgo County, TX
Holly Davis–Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center - Weslaco, TX

No	Treatment	Mean # of chilli thrips larvae/ 20 leaves			Mean # of chilli thrips adults/ 20 leaves			Mean # of total chilli thrips / 20 leaves		
		0 DAT	3 DAT	7 DAT	0 DAT	3 DAT	7 DAT	0 DAT	3 DAT	7 DAT
1	Untreated Control	437.0	911.8a	197.8a	66.3	130.3a	48.3a	503.3	1042.0a	246.0a
2	AgriMek @ 3.0 fl oz/a	641.5	476.8b	136.3ab	82.0	61.5b	19.5c	723.5	538.3b	155.8ab
3	Orthene @ 1lb/a	633.5	230.8c	35.3c	93.5	25.5c	11.5c	727.0	256.3c	46.8c
4	Exirel @ 16.0 fl oz/a	539.3	382.8bc	59.8bc	104.3	62.3b	23.3bc	643.5	445.0bc	83.0bc
5	Leverage @ 3.0 fl oz/a	529.0	364.5bc	186.0a	82.0	77.5b	43.5ab	611.0	442.0bc	229.5a
6	Radiant @ 6.0 fl oz/a	533.5	212.5c	17.8c	65.8	21.5c	12.3c	599.3	234.0c	30.0c

*All treatments included 0.25 % v/v Dyne-amic. Means within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different (*P*>0.05; PROC ANOVA; Mean comparison by LSD [SAS 9.4]). Reference to specific products is provided for informational purposes. Experiments with pesticides on non-labeled crops or pests is part of the insecticide registration process, it does not imply endorsement or recommendation of non-labeled uses of pesticides by Texas A&M University. **All pesticide use must be consistent with current labels.**

Figure 2: Efficacy trial on Chilli thrips conducted by Dr. Holly Davis

Update from Edward Herrera with Texas Boll weevil:

Year to Date planted cotton acreage: 182,213.2 ac.

Current year to date weevil captures is at 102 for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This is a 65% percent reduction of weevils reported for the same time last year. Recent rainfall has caused germination of cotton seed on acreage that had been submitted for failed acreage and will not be carried to harvest. Destruction of this cotton not being carried to harvest is important in case treatments are necessary in area and these acres will not add to program expenses. Recent rainfall has also created issues with access around perimeters of fields. Overgrowth of weeds creates difficult and hazardous conditions in that obstacles are covered. Another very important issue with program implementation is destruction of traps. Please be conscientious of fact that good data from trapping helps identify any

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infestation potential and can be addressed in a timely manner. This data could be very beneficial in helping keep treatments down if weevil activities are detected earlier. We are seeing cotton in corn, sorghum and sugarcane this can be reported as acreage out of compliance and fees can be levied through TDA regulations.

Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV)

Date	Category	Description	Total
05/23/2022	COTTON ACREAGE:	2021 Acreage Planted	182,213.20
	TRAPPING INFORMATION (Report Week):	Total Traps Inspected	20,150
		Total Weevils Captured	0
		Weevil Per Trap Average	0
	TRAPPING INFORMATION (YTD):	YTD Traps Inspected	690,221
		YTD Weevils Captured	101
		YTD Weevils Per Trap Average	0.00015
	TREATMENT INFORMATION (Report Week):	Number of Acres Treated	5,943.62
	TREATMENT INFORMATION (YTD):	YTD Acres Treated	294,616.84

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Season Long per Trap Average	.04999	.02503	. 02227	. 00162	.00015

Grain

Sorghum looking very clean with lots of sorghum in hard dough stage. As we conducted our field counts this week in our variety trial, we noticed significant crash in sugarcane aphids in the plots. Else where throughout the valley as we scouted, we noticed sugarcane aphid number were little to none as sorghum continues to mature. We did see a little bit of midge numbers but nothing at threshold. Any blooming

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sorghum should be checked from this point on as we continue to monitor sorghum as there have been reports of spray treatments for midge. We have been beating sorghum in soft dough stage and still no significant headworm numbers. We did happen to scout some very young sorghum in early vegetative stages and picked up on some significant fall armyworm pressure in some of the whorls.

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