



## 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

Very hot again this week with temperatures in triple digits. Many growers are harvesting corn and sorghum this month trying to finish those crops for the season. We did receive some light scattered showers here and there around the Valley mainly along the coast in eastern Willacy and Cameron counties in which some open boll cotton did receive its first rain shower unfortunately.

### Cotton

We have so much open boll cotton everywhere its exciting! This week we did a lot of pre-harvest note taking in various cotton trials for our IPM program and I am happy with the boll load this



**Figure 1: Wesley Vanderpool of Alamo produced country first bale and delivered to the Willacy Co-Op. (Photo courtesy of Chris Breedlove)**

year, was a lot better than I expected given the lack of rainfall and stress this crop has had. Many growers applied their first round of defoliant and boll openers this week and many other cotton fields were turned in for harvest aid applications as well. I expect to see cotton pickers in the fields next week!

In case you hadn't already heard the country's first bale of cotton for 2022 was produced by Wesley Vanderpool of Alamo, Texas and delivered to the Willacy Co-Op. Wesley planted cotton variety Stoneville 4990 on February 15<sup>th</sup> and harvested June 23, 2022. Congratulations Wesley Vanderpool! And way to go putting the LRGV back on top at producing the country's first bale!

As far as pests go in cotton it was a pretty clean week mainly because majority of the cotton crop is ready for harvest. However, we still have some cotton blooming with small dime size bolls that we went checking for plant bugs, but we only picked up a couple which was of little concern.

Along the river cotton growers are having to control whitefly populations as we are still seeing some light to moderate pressure. Growers will want to be ahead of whitefly pressure to prevent open boll cotton from having stained lint due to sooty mold that grows on sugars excreted by whiteflies feeding. We are still seeing hotspots of chilli thrips in the top leaves along the river as well. Chilli thrips can increase to soaring numbers and like to feed on the upper new leaves and can cause premature defoliation. If you don't mind losing a few leaves prior to harvest, then treatment is unnecessary but if you are still a ways off you might need to consider treatment.

### Grain & Corn

Sorghum and corn harvesting is wrapping up. Yields have varied greatly this year due to drought but overall, we had a fair crop.

### Sesame

Some of the earliest sesame planted was being harvested this week with more to be harvested next week. Still no leafroller activity or any other pests of concern on vegetative and blooming sesame which is awesome.

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