



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

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General Situation/ Cotton

This past Friday to Sunday brought about an accumulated 4-7 inches of much needed rain throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley. However, this rain halted cotton harvest early this week, but growers have started to get back into some fields that have dried yesterday and will continue to work around the coastal showers as cotton harvest marches on. According to TBWEF as of August 16th we have harvested 101,186 acres out of the 176,143 acres of cotton, that's more than half the LRGV cotton crop, about 60% and have seen some fair to great yields. Growers along the river and in the mid Valley have had to deal with influx of whiteflies infesting all green cotton they can find and migrating out of defoliated fields these last 3-4 weeks. Some growers with late cotton had to treat for whiteflies while others went ahead and defoliated since it was time. The rains received this last weekend knocked back whitefly populations, but they are on the rise again. Aside from whiteflies many cotton growers have also had to treat for late chili thrips infestations prior to defoliation along the river and in some areas of the mid Valley.



Figure 1: Johnsons harvesting cotton in Sebastian, Texas

With many cotton fields already having been harvested and many more to be harvested in the



Figure 2: Harvested cotton stalks that were shredded and now have regrowth with recent moisture

coming weeks it is important to be vigilant on stalk destruction to avoid regrowth of hostable cotton. Since we have received a lot of moisture lately and seems we will continue to receive coastal showers I've included in this Pest Cast some of the herbicide stalk destruction data that agronomist Dr. Josh McGinty and I did where it shows lists of treatments, we used to keep stalks unhostable and with limited to no regrowth so that you are in compliance with TBWEF. The deadline for cotton stalk destruction is September 1st and any cotton that remains hostable after this date will be in violation of regulations and subject to fees. Remember hostable cotton is any cotton that has green pin head squares or bolls that boll weevils can feed on. Non-hostable cotton

is any cotton that **do not** have viable (live) green pin head squares and bolls for cotton boll weevils to feed and reproduce on. Many fields have stalks shredded but seeing significant regrowth after the recent rains. Some of the regrowth is just starting to get some pinhead squares so treatment will be necessary to render non hostable prior to September 1st stalk destruction deadline. Our boll weevil numbers are the lowest they've been in years, and we must work together to keep it that way. Just one female boll weevil can deposit anywhere from 100-300 eggs in cotton squares or fruit. Then all it takes is an average of 2-3 weeks for an egg to develop into a flying adult that seeks out another hostable cotton plant to feed on and the process starts all over again. You can see how quickly the boll weevil populations can exponentially grow in a matter of a few weeks. Therefore, you manage and kill the host plant properly (cotton) you in turn kill any chances for boll weevils to reproduce thus greatly helping the cotton industry remain productive not only in Texas but the entire U.S. With the chance of continued coastal showers, it is imperative that we remain diligent working together with the TBWEF to destroy all cotton stalks and render them non-hostable to combat in keeping boll weevil populations low to none. We have herbicides that can kill and keep cotton from having a viable pin head square making it non hostable. See attached Cotton Herbicide Stalk destruction paper for more info. For information within different zones on stalk destruction deadlines and equipment movement you can visit TDA or TBWEF websites for rules and regulations.

Important Update from: Edward Herrera, LRGV Zone Manager with Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

LRGV Cotton Acreage being carried to harvest: 176,143 ac.

As of August 16, 2022:

Total Cotton Acreage Original Stalk no defoliant: 10,105 ac.

Total Cotton Acreage with at least on shot of defoliant not picked: 64,852 ac.

Total Cotton Acreage Picked: 101,186 ac.

As mentioned above the rainfall has impeded the cotton harvesting temporarily but it is still very important to continue as soon as possible and insure timely destruction of the cotton stalk for a host free period and further the eradication process. This year we are having a very successful season with weevils being reported continuing to be at historical low levels.

The eradication program on the Tamaulipas side is also doing very well with the reporting of historical low weevil captures. Harvesting on the Tamaulipas side is progressing similarly to the LRGV side but has also been temporarily halted due to wet weather. Producers on the Mexican side are abiding by their stalk destruction regulations to date, and it looks very favorable for a successful year in bringing weevil numbers down towards complete eradication.

For the season LRGV is reporting 119 weevil captures to date as compared to this time last season of 868 weevils reported.

For the season Tamaulipas is reporting 371 weevil captures to date as compared to this time last season of 1,712 weevils reported.

Both programs are on track for a very successful season if stalk destruction can be carried out in a timely manner. Remainder of 2022 will determine greatly the success or setbacks for 2023's program.

**Valley CO-OP Oil Mill
VALCO
Report #3,
Date: 08/15/2022**

Rio Grande Valley Cotton Ginning Report and Comparison Chart

County	Week Ending	Total to Date Ginned	In comparison with total to date for same week ending in year shown.			
			09/06/2021	(Final) 11/18/2021	(Final) 9/7/2020	(Final) 11/18/2019
		(2022)				
Cameron	10,818	18,599	12,192	71,547	11,988	156,355
Hidalgo	5,792	16,163	6,819	65,735	10,413	103,345
Willacy	10,811	32,063	9,443	82,649	4,482	103,916
Valley Total	27,421	66,825	28,454	219,931	26,883	363,616

<u>Gins with reported data</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Cameron County	4	3
Hidalgo Country	4	2
Willacy County	3	3
TOTAL	11	8

Important Announcements

- Pasture, Range & Forage Workshop to be held date: Sept. 15th, time: 9am to 2pm, location: AgriLife District 12 Auditorium, Weslaco, Free Lunch
Free Program or for those who need CEUs it will be 3 CEU's for \$20, agenda to be sent out soon
- Golfers, Putters, Friends, and Agricultural Affiliates:
The annual Cotton & Grain Classic Golf Tournament will be on Friday, October 14, 2022, at the Harlingen Country Club.
See the attached flyer for more information and how to reserve places for your teams.
- Free Soil Testing Campaign, please see attached flyer for more information

National Cotton Council

At the end of July, Dwight Jackson with the National Cotton Council along with several of our LRGV Cotton growers (Chris Sparks, Samuel Sparks, and Chuck McDonald) hosted a sharp group of cotton textile mill merchants from Pakistan. The group was able to fly into the Valley and view cotton being harvested in Sebastian, have lunch hosted by SRS farms and visit Ross Gin in Mercedes. Was a really great group and a great way to build trade relations. Webb Wallace, executive director of the Cotton and Grain Producers of the Rio Grande Valley made sure to give them hats on behalf of CGP of RGV so they would be representing South Texas as they flew into Lubbock for the next part of their trip!

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.



Pakistan Textile Mill Merchants talking with Webb Wallace, executive director of Cotton and Grain Board of LRGV and Chris Sparks , cotton grower in Sebastian Texas as they watch cotton being harvest (above) Below we have the Pakistan group enjoying a talk from Samuel Sparks with SRS Farms as they hosted lunch in Mercedes and talked cotton.



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