



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/ Cotton

Cotton growers in the LRGV have been harvesting cotton nonstop working around several coastal showers received these last two weeks and continue to receive as they finish off the season. We are looking ahead at a forecast calling for significant rainfall from this Friday till next Friday, but we will see what happens. From last week to this week growers certainly have harvested all they can and could get into. I have seen many growers destroying stalks by either spraying them with herbicides for the regrowth, shredding their stalks and tilling them under. Very proud of our LRGV cotton growers and the progress they have made in getting



Figure 1: Some beautiful cotton being harvested this week



Figure 2: Grower shredding and destroying stalks after harvest

all cotton out before the cotton stalk destruction deadline. In case you were wondering, cotton stalk destruction deadline for the LRGV zone is today, September 1, 2022. According to TBWEF as of August 31st we have picked 147,472 acres out of the 176,143 acres of cotton carried to harvest, that's about 84% harvested. We currently have 26,606 acres that have been defoliated and waiting to be picked; if anything, these that still need to be picked must be too wet to get into. And then we have 2,424 acres of cotton with original stalk, just meaning they are still green and are either not mature yet or are too wet to get in and spray defoliant. These numbers have probably changed because there are lots of equipment being



Figure 3: Ag Agents Vidal & Marco recording cotton yields as Logan & Chuck McCutchen harvest the variety trial



moved around in fields but for most part this is where we stand on total acres harvested thus far in the LRGV.

Stalk destruction is September 1, 2022, today, with no blanket extension in place. It is important for Producers to understand that cotton stalks only need to be rendered non-hostable. Non-hostable cotton means: No fruiting structures (squares or bolls) where weevils can feed on or reproduce in. Cotton that has shredded stalks with no regrowth yet, cotton that is completely defoliated, cotton that is tilled under with no

seedlings sprouted, all these are examples of cotton fields in compliance with today's stalk destruction deadline. With the current rains we have been receiving and any future moisture in the forecast; cotton growers will need to be diligent with stalk destruction making sure that no hostable cotton is present in weeks to come. Boll weevil numbers remain at an all-time low with current weevils caught to date at 147 weevils total for the LRGV. Growers and TBWEF are working hard together to keep boll weevil numbers low. We have herbicides that can kill and keep cotton from having a viable pin head square making it non-hostable and in compliance with TBWEF. 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.

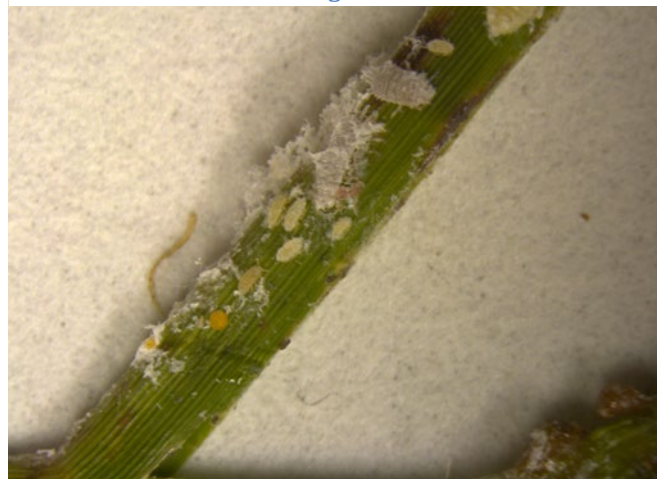
We were able to harvest and get data out on one of our replicated cotton variety trials, we will share data once fully evaluated. Thank you, Chuck McCutchen, (grower out of the Mercedes, Texas area) for your help and cooperation in getting this trial done and out. Any growers interested in conducting a variety trial in corn, sorghum, or cotton for next year 2023, please get a hold of your local Ag agent in your respective county.

Pasture Insects / Mealybugs

The last month I have gone out to a couple pastures and received a couple of Bermuda grass samples that were planted for grazing and hay for cattle. Producers in the area thought they might have fungus that was killing their grass when in fact upon further inspection it was a heavy infestation of mealybugs feeding on their grass in the pasture. Mealybugs are sucking pests that feed on plant sugars and excrete the sugars which get sticky and then black sooty mold will grow on these sugars. It is this secondary injury of the



Figure 4: Close up shots of mealybugs (above & below) on Bermuda grass blade



black sooty mold (Figure 5) that can give the impression that it is just a fungus problem but if you get down and look at your Bermuda grass you will notice white fuzzy yellow body critters feeding on the blades of grass, these are mealybugs (Figure 4). In this particular pasture the mealybugs had fed and killed about six inches of grass underneath making a canopy and the top of the grass was still somewhat green. I would recommend in this case to cut the grass to expose the mealybugs underneath and then you can apply an insecticide registered for pasture use to help control them. You will want to pay attention to re-entry intervals for cattle to graze. If you feel you have some pest damage going on in your pasture and would like someone to take a look, give me a call and I will go out and help evaluate what's going on and see what control would be best. Here are two links you can click on to AgriLife guides that might be helpful when controlling insect pests in pasture and forage.

<https://agrilife.org/texaslocalproduce-2/files/2018/07/Managing-Insect-and-Mite-Pest-of-Texas-Forage-Crops.pdf>

<https://agrilife.org/lubbock/files/2017/08/Managing-Insect-Pests-of-Texas-Forage-Crops-ENTO-064-2017.pdf>



Figure 5: Black sooty mold in Bermuda grass circled in red that is being fed on by mealybugs



Figure 6: Bermuda grass blade infested with several mealybugs feeding

Thank you, Cotton & Grain Growers, for your continued support!

Thank you, growers, for continuing to support your local row crops IPM program. Thank you for allowing us to continue to scout your fields to provide information on pests and such in your area. A big thank you to all those growers who I call and bug from time to time to help me out with various things, just thank you, you know who you are!

Thank You Sponsors for your continued Support and Contributions!

Thank you Sponsors for your continued support and contributions. Your contributions help our IPM program to thrive by providing funds for scouting, research, etc. to provide our local growers with relevant information important to their IPM program on their farms, and for that I thank you!

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 attached
- 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

Information provided by Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation:

Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV)

Date	Category	Description	Total
8/22/2022	COTTON ACREAGE:	2022 Acreage Planted	182,213.20
	TRAPPING INFORMATION (Report Week):	Total Traps Inspected	54,124
		Total Weevils Captured	7
		Weevil Per Trap Average	0.00013
	TRAPPING INFORMATION (YTD):	YTD Traps Inspected	1,363,066
		YTD Weevils Captured	147
		YTD Weevils Per Trap Average	0.00011
	TREATMENT INFORMATION (Report Week):	Number of Acres Treated	12,217.97
	TREATMENT INFORMATION (YTD):	YTD Acres Treated	378,233.78

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Season Long per Trap Average	.04999	.02503	.02227	.00162	.00011

**Valley CO-OP Oil Mill
VALCO
Report #5,
Date: 08/29/2022**

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.			
			09/20/2021	(Final) 11/18/2021	(Final) 9/7/2020	(Final) 11/18/2019
		(2022)				
Cameron	11,946	42,509	6,993	71,547	11,988	156,355
Hidalgo	7,886	30,870	8,402	65,735	10,413	103,345
Willacy	9,536	51,819	11,240	82,649	4,482	103,916
Valley Total	29,368	125,198	26,635	219,931	26,883	363,616

<u>Gins with reported data</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cameron County 4	3
Hidalgo Country 4	4
Willacy County 3	2
TOTAL 11	9

Thank You 2022 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors!

Diamond 

- *BASF-FiberMax-Stoneville
- *Bayer-DeltaPine-Dekalb
- *Corteva-PhytoGen
- *Farmers Crop Insurance
- *FMC Agricultural Solutions
- *Helena Agri Enterprises
- *RegalAG
- *Simplot Grower Solutions
- *Wilbur-Ellis Co.

Platinum 

- *Capital Farm Credit
- *Nutrien Ag Solutions
- *Sun Valley Dusting

Gold 

- *Americot-NexGen
- *Cameron County Farm Bureau
- *Hidalgo County Farm Bureau
- *La Feria Co-op Gin
- *Sesaco
- *Texas Farm Credit
- *Texas Sorghum Producers
- *Valley Co-op Oil Mill

Silver 

- *Adams Farms
- *Frisby-Bell Gin
- *Hargill Growers' Gin
- *RGV Gin Company
- *Rob See Co.
- *Ross Gin Company
- *Valley Ag Insurance Services
- *Vital Fertilizers
- *Willamar Operating Co.