



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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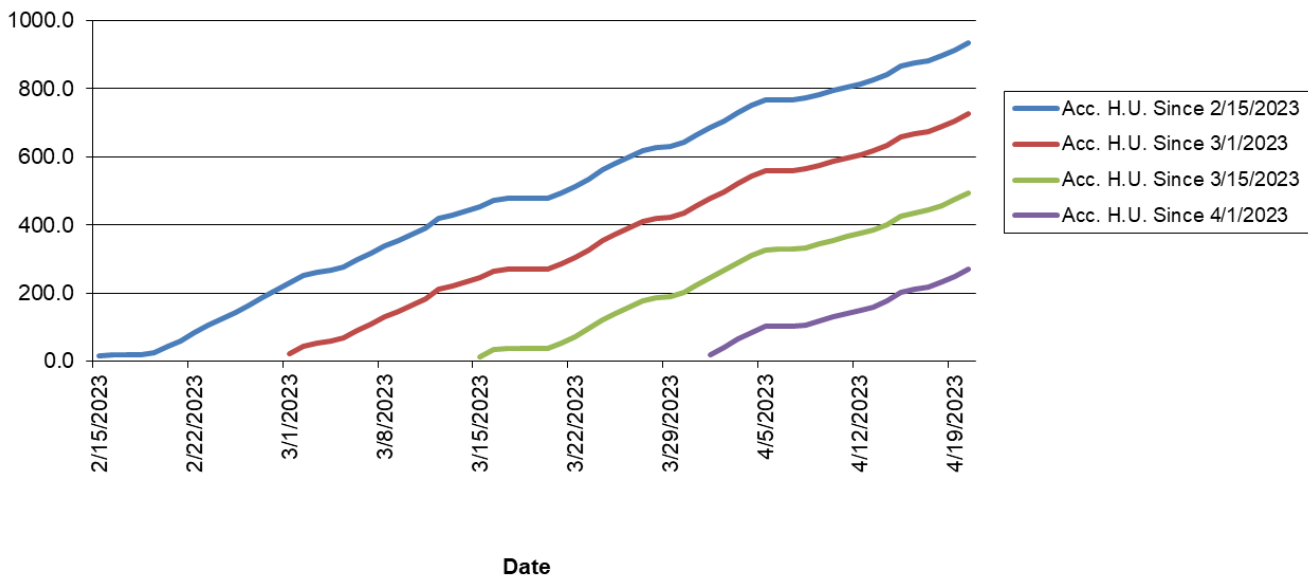
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General Situation

This week lots of growers trying to get a handle on weeds in their cotton as well as other crops. With the recent moisture we have had lots of fields being sprayed for weeds that were choking out the young cotton. Aside from that we have had quite a few overcast days and crops are progressing well.

2023 Cotton Heat Unit (H.U.) Accumulation Graph



Cotton

According to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication program as of Tuesday April 18th we have about 131,843 acres planted cotton and still might have a little more left to plant before the Valley is done. We have lots of cotton squaring and it looks very clean, not picking up on any fleahoppers yet, which is great. We also have lots of cotyledon, and 2-4 true leaf cotton still in the early stages throughout the Valley. We are seeing some pockets of cotton aphids here and there around all Valley cotton but nothing at threshold or of concern. We are seeing plenty of predators, ladybugs (adults & larvae), syrphid larvae, scymnus larvae and other predators in cotton feeding on aphids. I am picking up on some moderate-high thrips pressure in the Edinburg/ Mission area in cotyledon- two true leaf cotton. Despite that cotton throughout the Valley

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looking very clean as of now. The biggest pest in cotton this last week and half is the weeds that are being controlled.

An update from Texas Boll Weevil Eradication program: Edward Herrera LRGV Zone Manager:

On the opposite side there are cotton acres being failed, destroyed and put into other crops, mostly grain. These acres will still be monitored as current year's cotton acreage since they were originally planted into cotton. It is important for Producers to completely destroy cotton prior to putting in another crop or if cotton seeds germinate after another crop is planted. If cotton exists in other crops and treatments are required due to boll weevil detection then applications will be made according to protocols over these acres. Very costly for the program but required in eradication process. Cotton fields that do not have boll weevil traps deployed around them need be reported to Foundation so we can service and have good trapping data possibly avoiding costly treatment expenses.



Figure 3: Cotton Aphids

Table 3. Thrips action threshold

Cotton stage	Action threshold
<i>Emergence to</i>	
1 true leaf	1 thrips per plant
2 true leaves	2 thrips per plant
3 true leaves	3 thrips per plant
4 true leaves	4 thrips per plant
5–7 leaves or squaring initiation	Treatment is rarely justified.

Figure 1: Action thresholds for thrips above and aphids below

Table 6. Aphid action threshold

Cotton stage	Action threshold
Prior to first cracked boll	40–70 aphids per leaf*
After first cracked boll	10 aphids per leaf**

*Higher the yield potential (>1000 lbs lint/acre), lower the threshold
 **Where rainfall is not likely to wash honeydew from the lint

Figure 1: Action thresholds for thrips & aphids feeding in cotton



Figure 2: Squaring cotton 2023

*As your IPM agent I have tested out different sorghum herbicides on cotyledon and two true leaf cotton. I have posted the information at the link below and have attached it in this email as pdf. Hope you find this information helpful.

<https://southtexas.tamu.edu/files/2023/04/Controlling-Volunteer-Cotton-in-Grain-Sorghum-using-Herbicides-2022.pdf>

Grain Sorghum

In grain sorghum we are picking up on headworm along the river in blooming and soft dough sorghum, mainly corn earworms. Along the river we are just at threshold for headworms in many of the soft dough sorghum fields, remember that threshold for headworms in sorghum is 1-2 larvae per head so get out that old 5 gallon white bucket and go check your sorghum by beating some heads. We are also seeing many more rice stinkbugs (adults & nymphs) this week mainly concentrated along the river as well, but we are also starting to pick up on a little bit of rice stinkbug activity in sorghum in the mid Valley. The threshold for rice stinkbugs is 0.5-1 per sorghum head depending on the planting population. We are seeing pockets of sugarcane aphids here and there but nothing even near threshold or of concern at this time, just be aware they are present in commercial sorghum. Here is the Sorghum guide for managing insects and mites , click on link below:

<https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2019/02/Managing-Insect-and-Mite-Pests-of-Texas-Sorghum-ENTO-085-2018.pdf>



Figure 4: Headworm, corn earworm in soft dough sorghum



Figure 6: Rice stinkbug nymphs on sorghum head



Figure 5: Rice stinkbug adults

Audio Update for South Texas IPM in row crops

We have started the weekly audio update for South Texas IPM in row crops again this year. Its a 5 minute update on what is going on in the LRGV and Costal Bend areas . We hope that you will follow this link and sign up: <https://www.texasinsects.org/south-texas.html> . You will receive text when a new update is

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available and can listen to it right there in your truck, tractor, or wherever you may be. This does not replace the Pest Cast Newsletter but is an extra source of information to have available. Thank you.

Signing up is easy: Click on this link, <https://www.texasinsects.org/south-texas.html>

On the top of the page select:>> Signup to get a text message when a new post is made.<<

Next, Signup for South Texas IPM Updates, by entering your cell number and input if you are a PRODUCER, CONSULTANT, AG INDUSTRY, AGRILIFE OR OTHER. And that's it!

***** Please save the date, Wednesday May 24, 2023, we will be hosting a Cotton & Grain Scouting School where we will go over diseases and pests and other data, details will come next week , we plan to have free lunch and CEUs available , and door prizes , all of this is made possible by your generous Pest Cast Sponsors this 2023 year , thank you 2023 Sponsors! Please make plans to attend, this will be good for all growers, scouts, new scouts, consultants and anyone wanting to learn about Cotton & Grain in the LRGV.**

Thank You 2023 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors!

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