



Pest Cast

The Row Crops IPM Newsletter for the LRGV, a cooperative project of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas Pest Management Association, and the Cotton & Grain Producers of the lower Rio Grande Valley

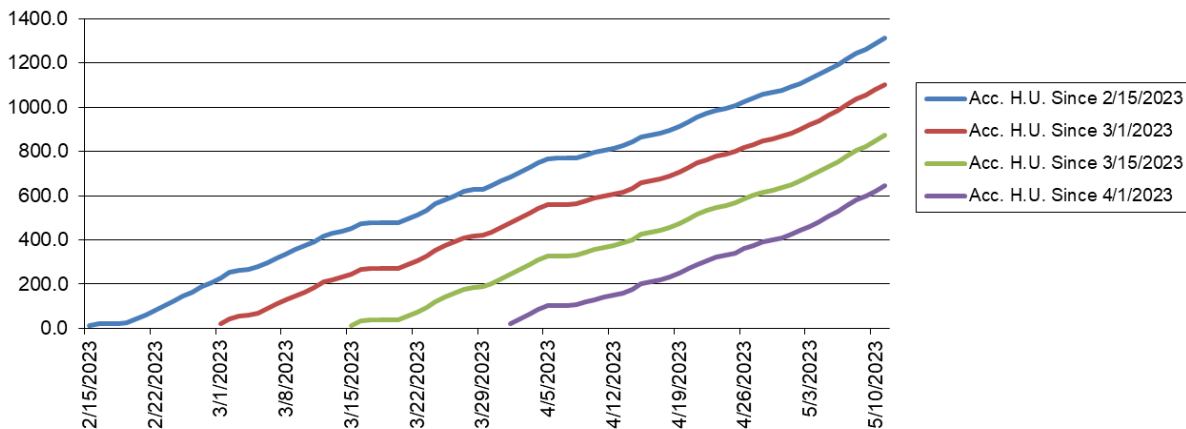
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General Situation

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



Dates for Cotton H.U. 2023

Accumulated Heat Units for Cotton 2023

	Acc. H.U. Since 2/15	Acc. H.U. Since 3/1	Acc. H.U. Since 3/15	Acc. H.U. Since 4/1
2023	1311.5	1103.5	871.5	646.5

Hot and muggy this week scouting as it has been incredibly humid each day but that's normal for down here. Still a clean week in cotton as far as pests go and saw lots of growers getting ahead on weed control. The Heat Units chart for cotton this year 2023 is very interesting as you can see the planting dates are all spaced out were in years past we usually start to have heat units catch up and merge but all lines are separated by at least a couple hundred heat units.

Cotton

Cotton is looking good and clean this week in all stages. We did pick up on a few adult fleahoppers and moderate/light pressure of cotton aphids present in a few fields, but the majority across the Valley were very clean of pests. Along the river still seeing a couple of adult whiteflies but again no populations of concern as of to date. We have lots of squaring cotton so will be important to monitor for fleahoppers in the coming weeks.

Grain Sorghum

This week in sorghum we picked up on some of the first fields along the river and in Weslaco with flowering sorghum that had midge pressure at threshold. See figure 4, Table F below with insecticides labeled for control of sorghum midge. As we scouted in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties north of FM 107 we were not seeing any midge populations of concern but just heads up they are present now. As we continue to enter the later part of May into June and will have more blooming sorghum from here on out it will be very important to monitor for midge. When checking for midge (Figure 2) inspect the heads for a small orange/reddish flying insect around the yellow flowering spikelets as this is where the female will lay her eggs, usually about 50 yellow-white eggs, the adults only live for one day. The eggs hatch in 2 to 3 days so you must check daily for sorghum midge as new populations emerge/hatch each morning. It is imperative that if you have flowering sorghum you try to get out there every 3 days between the hours of 10 am and 2pm to inspect for midge pressure. The threshold for midge is one per sorghum head. Also in some sorghum we are seeing pockets of sugarcane aphids, so will be important to monitor them as well as the temperature continues to rise and they thrive in muggy, hot, humid conditions. (See figure 3)



Figure 1: Blooming & soft dough sorghum



Figure 2: Sorghum midge

Table 8. Action thresholds for sorghum aphids based on sorghum growth stages.

Sorghum Growth Stage	Threshold
Pre-boot to boot	20% of plants infested with 50 or more aphids.
Flowering to milk stage	30% of plants infested with 50 or more aphids.
Soft-dough to hard-dough	30% of plants infested with established aphid colonies and localized areas with heavy honeydew.
Black layer	Heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies. Treat only to prevent harvest problems.

Figure 3: Sugarcane aphid threshold table, on pg. 15 of the Managing Insect & mite pests of Texas Sorghum guide, ENTO-PU-170 April 2023, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Table F. Insecticides labeled for control of sorghum midges in grain sorghum (follow label directions).						
Active Ingredient	Insecticide	Mode of Action	Rate	Remarks	REI ¹	PHI ²
Post-emergence Treatment						
Alpha-cypermethrin	Fastac	3A	1.3–3.8 fl. oz./A	Restricted use. Danger-Poison.	12H	14 days
Beta-cyfluthrin	Baythroid XL	3A	1.0–1.3 fl. oz./A	Restricted use.	12H	14 days
Cyfluthrin	Tombstone	3A	1.0–1.3 fl. oz./A	Restricted use.		
Deltamethrin	Delta Gold 1.5 EC	3A	1.3–1.9 fl. oz./A	Restricted use. Danger-Poison.		
Esfenvalerate	Asana XL, generics	3A	2.9–5.8 fl. oz./A	Restricted use.		
Gamma-cyhalothrin	Declare 1.25, Proaxis 0.5	3A	0.77–1.02 fl. oz./A 1.92–2.56 fl. oz./A	Restricted use.		
Lambda-cyhalothrin	Warrior II with Zeon, Karate with Zeon, generics	3A	0.96–1.28 fl. oz./A	Restricted use.		
Lambda-cyhalothrin + chlorantraniliprole	Besiege	3A	5.0–6.0 fl. oz./A	Do not exceed total of 18 fl. oz./A per year. Restricted use.		
Spinosad	Blackhawk	3A, 28	1.5–3.3 fl. oz./A	See 2(ee) label for midges. For low to moderate midge infestations.		
Methomyl	Lannate LV, Lannate SP, generics	5	0.75–1.0 pt./A 0.25–0.5 lb./A	Do not use methomyl on sweet sorghum varieties. For SP, use a minimum of 10 GPA by ground or 2 GPA by air. Restricted use. Danger-Poison.	48H	14 days
Zeta-cypermethrin	Mustang Maxx, Respect	1A	1.28–4.0 fl. oz./A	Restricted use.	12H	14 days

¹ REI = Restricted entry level² PHI = Pre-harvest interval

Figure 4: Table F, on pg. 31 of the Managing Insect & mite pests of Texas Sorghum guide, ENTO-PU-170 April 2023, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Figure 5: Sesame emerging in Lyford, TX this week.

Sesame

Sesame continues to grow and come up across the Valley and is pest free this week too. We have sesame from McCook to Sebastian and all along the river in the early growth stages and will be monitoring for keys pests as the growing season continues.



Figure 6: Sesame in early vegetative stages along the river in Pharr, TX this week

***** Please save the date, Wednesday May 24, 2023, we will be hosting a Cotton & Grain Scouting School for Pests and Diseases at the Weslaco AgriLife Station, 2 IPM & 1 General TDA CEUs. Please see attached flyer and make plans to attend.**

To register click on this link: <https://bit.ly/3VjMZTm>

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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Silver



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Thank you for your support and I hope you find the information in this Pest Cast provided useful and helpful to your current farming operations.