



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

Danielle Sekula
IPM Extension Agent

Volume XLV

Issue 15, August 25, 2023

General Situation/Cotton

This week brought very little rainfall for most of the Valley as we watched tropical storm Harold pass the LRGV and send rain to the coastal bend areas up north. For those with cotton still in the fields with open bolls to be harvested and finish defoliating this is good news as temperatures continue to rise and heat back up and hopes to get back into the fields soon to finish harvest.

According to TBWEF as of August 23rd about 75% ($\approx 102,000$ acres) of the 135,873.40 acres cotton planted have been picked leaving about 34,000 acres of cotton still yet to be harvested. Of the 34,000 acres yet to be picked there are approximately 8,000 cotton acres currently as original stalk which means cotton that is still green and not mature yet to be pushed to harvest. The other 26,000 acres probably have either one or two shots of defoliant and are waiting to dry up to be harvested in the coming weeks.

One very important point is that cotton stalks need to be maintained at the non-hostable crop stage. Stalks with regrowth will be hostable in a matter of a few weeks and there will be material for weevils to gain sustenance or reproduce. According to TBWEF acreage with original stalk from September 1st forward will generate fees immediately after being posted for being out of compliance with TDA stalk destruction regulations. No grace period on this original stalk cotton.

Stalk destruction deadline is next Friday September 1, 2023, 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 the September 1st stalk destruction deadline.

The LRGV cotton growers and TBWEF are working hard together to keep boll weevil numbers low



Figure 2: Grower shredding and destroying stalks after harvest

as we work towards the goal of eradication. Traditionally, cotton stalks are either destroyed mechanically or with herbicides such as 2,4-D. The application of 2,4-D on cotton stalks has been highly effective, however cotton varieties that possess the Enlist trait (W3FE) are fully tolerant and must be treated with alternative products. For several years, we have been evaluating alternative herbicides and tank mixtures for managing Enlist cotton stalks to keep these fields in compliance with TDA and have found that dichlorprop (2,4-DP) and dicamba are effective options. After you have shredded your cotton stalks it is best to wait approximately 14 days or longer (≈ 2 weeks) to allow enough regrowth

so that treatment will have better uptake. We have seen that having some regrowth and leaves growing (1-3 inches in diameter) on the shredded stalks is key to obtain good efficacy. This year due to the extreme heat and drought conditions cotton plants might be stressed and might not put on adequate regrowth as fast and we might need to wait longer for growth and moisture for adequate regrowth before applying treatments or consider other stalk destruction methods such as tillage. The results of the most recent stalk destruction trial conducted in the LRGV are shown below. In this trial, the greatest control of cotton stalks was achieved with 2,4-DP either alone or tank mixed with tiafenacil (Reviton) or thidiazuron (Dropp, Freefall), dicamba tank mixed with tiafenacil, or a two-pass program of 0.75 lb ae/acre of either 2,4-DP or dicamba plus thidiazuron followed by a second application of 0.75 lb ae/acre 2,4-DP or dicamba. See the cotton stalk destruction trial done below in 2022 for treatments used and to compare mean number of hostable cotton stalks (any stalks with viable pin head squares). For a complete report visit: <https://southtexas.tamu.edu/programs-and-services/ipm/>

For information within different zones on stalk destruction deadlines and equipment movement you can visit TDA or TBWEF websites for rules and regulations. <https://www.txbollweevil.org/>
<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Regulatory-Programs/Cotton-Stalk-Destruction>

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:

- **2023 Cotton & Grain Golf Classic**, coming up on **Friday, October 20** at the Harlingen Country Club. See Attached pdf for more info on sponsorship & to reserve a space for your team.
- **TDA Private Applicator License Training on August 29th**, When: Tuesday August 29th, Where: Reber Memorial Library, 193 N 4th St Raymondville, Tx, Time: 1:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M., COST: \$75, CASH ORCHECKS ACCEPTED, *Cost includes training books and study materials*, FOR MORE INFO & TO RSVP BY AUGUST 28TH, CALL 956-689-2412, see attached flyer.

Cotton Stalk Herbicide Trial 2022/ Sponsor Name: Cotton Incorporated

PI: Danielle Sekula – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension/ Co PI: Bosh McGinty– Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Hidalgo County, TX/Texas AgriScience, LLC. In Lyford, TX

Hostable Cotton Stalks Herbicide trial 2022

Treatment	Mean # cotton stalks with Hostable pinhead squares										Prices for trt	
	26-Sep	4-Oct	11-Oct	17-Oct	25-Oct	4-Nov	26-Sep	4-Oct	11-Oct	17-Oct		25-Oct
	Precounts	7 DAT	14 DAT	21 DAT	28 DAT	38 DAT						
1	2,4-DP @ 1 lb ae/a + COC @ 1%	106.50	6.25	4.00	7.50	8.25						\$12.96
2	2,4-DP @ 0.75 lb ae/a + Tiafenacil @ 1 fl oz/a + MSO @ 1%	104.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0 c	\$15.50
3	2,4-DP @ 0.75 lb ae/a + Thidiazuron @ 3.2 fl oz/a + COC @ 1%	112.00	0.25	0.25	1.75	2.25					3.75 c	\$13.50
4	Dicamba @ 1.0 lb ae/a + COC @ 1%	105.00	3.50	26.00	68.75	87.00					61.75 b	\$20.64
5	Dicamba @ 0.75 lb ae/a + Tiafenacil @ 1 fl oz/a + MOS @ 1%	104.75	1.25	1.00	2.00	3.00					1.75 c	\$21.26
6	Dicamba @ 0.75 lb ae/a + Thidiazuron @ 3.2 fl oz/a + COC @ 1%	102.25	0.00	0.00	89.50	88.00					93.25 a	\$19.26
7	2,4-DP @ 0.75 lb ae/a + Thidiazuron @ 3.2 fl oz/a + COC @ 1% fb 2,4-DP @ 0.75 lb ae/a + COC @ 1%	108.75	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00					0 c	\$23.26
8	Dicamba @ 0.75 lb ae/a + Thidiazuron @ 3.2 fl oz/a + COC @ 1% fb Dicamba @ 0.75 lb ae/a + COC @ 1%	114.50	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.5 c	\$34.78
9	Nontreated Control	108.50	108.50	108.50	108.50	108.50					108.5 a	\$32.50

* COC (Crop oil concentrates) & MSO (Metholated seed oil) are adjuvants

*Nontreated Control cost = \$5 per week per acre (first 5 weeks), 6th week increases \$7.50 fine per acre for hostable commercial cotton for regrowth cotton

*Treatments 1-6 only received one spray treatment

*fb (followed by) means treatments 7 & 8 had first spray treatment followed by (fb) a second spray treatment 9 days later

*First spray treatment occurred on September 27th and second spray treatment occurred on October 6th.

(*Note prices for treatments were “ballpark” figures given by local chemical reps in the area and are not the exact final price but give a good idea of prices per treatment overall. Also Nontreated Control was calculated based on the weekly fine totaled for untreated cotton stalks established by TDA & the TBWEP).

Means within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P>0.05; PROC ANOVA; Mean comparison by LSD [SAS 9.4])



Thank You 2023 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors!

Diamond



- *Americot-NexGen
- *BASF
- *Bayer
- *Capital Farm Credit
- *Farmers Crop Insurance
- *RegalAG

Platinum



- *La Feria Co-op Gin
- *Simplot

Gold



- *Cameron County Farm Bureau
- *Hidalgo County Farm Bureau
- *Nichino
- *Sesaco
- *Texas Farm Credit
- *Texas Sorghum Producers
- *Valley Co-op Oil Mill
- *Vital Fertilizers

Silver



- *Adams Farms
- *Frisby-Bell Gin Co.
- *Hargill Growers' Gin
- *RGV Gin Company, LLC
- *Rob See Co.
- *Ross Gin Company ltd
- *Valley Ag Insurance Services Inc
- *Willamar Operating, L.P.