



## 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

This week was moderate temperatures, days in the high 80s and nights varying from 50-70. Still was a very windy week but calmed down yesterday and many growers took advantage spraying to control weeds. Some replanting of cotton and sesame went on this went as well.

We checked lots more squaring cotton this week as well as cotyledon cotton that just came up. Cotton starting to get a little bit of cotton aphids alates flying in and reproducing. Only picked up on some low-moderate populations of cotton aphids along the river and a few in Mid valley. I also saw a couple of fleahoppers along the river as well but mostly all cotton was very clean of pests around the Valley. We are also seeing our normal predators make their way into the cotton: ladybug adults & larva, scymnus larva feeding on aphids.

### Cotton



Figure 1: Squaring cotton in LRGV

### Grain Sorghum

This week in sorghum we picked up on some high sugarcane aphid populations in flowering sorghum around the mid valley area. Aside from that all the other sorghum I looked at from along the river, throughout the 3 counties from coast to McCook looked clean. I'm only picking up on a couple of pockets of sugarcane aphids in sorghum in Mid valley and along the river and not seeing any elsewhere as most sorghum is still in the vegetative stages. Reminder as we get past the flag leaf stage, and head into the booting stage of sorghum -flower stage that we should try to scout sorghum at least every 3-4 days, so about 2 times per week. That way if we need to control sugarcane aphids, we can beat them before their

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 2: Cotton aphid action thresholds



populations take off and apply a spray application if necessary. Again, still seeing a few corn leaf aphids in the whorls but they are good as they attract beneficials such as ladybugs, lacewings, and syrphids to help control aphid populations.

### Corn, & Sesame

I saw a lot of corn with twisting leaves trying to conserve what moisture the plants have in Willacy and Cameron counties. There was a lot more sesame seedlings up this week and sesame in the early vegetative stages. Sesame was clean of any pests this week.

### Audio Update for South Texas IPM in row crops

For those who would like to sign up, it's 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 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:>>  
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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!

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Figure 3: Scymnus larva feeding on cotton aphids



Figure 4: Sesame

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