



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

Dry, hot and windy this week. Growers that still have limited irrigation were seen watering fields this week but for most of the LRGV crops are stressed and there is no water available.

Cotton

This week we were seeing another hatch in cotton fleahopper nymphs as we were finding many in cotton fields that had not been treated yet for fleahoppers. In previously treated cotton fields we were finding a couple of adult fleahoppers but nothing at threshold just yet. Cotton aphids were still very minimal to low pressure as many predators were seen feeding in many cotton fields. We are noticing minimal populations of whiteflies present in cotton fields around the mid valley. We also noticed red spidermite pressure in a couple of fields. We started to see our first blooms in 4-5 node cotton as well this week which is earlier than usual.

Grain Sorghum

We definitely saw a huge increase in alates, adult winged sugarcane aphids migrating into sorghum fields this week. You might want to start pulling flag leaves to see if you have SCA migrating into your fields as it will help give an indication of what is to come. Signs of high

populations of SCA that need control treatment are honeydew (sugars) glistening on leaves consistently as you walk through your field, stickiness, and sooty mold present towards lower part of canopy. When treating sugarcane aphids applying at least 10-15 gallons of water per acre is necessary to get product down into the lower part of the canopy where SCA are mostly present to obtain adequate coverage and overall good control. Also adding drops to your booms can increase control efficiency ensuring the product is in the middle to lower part of canopy. We checked behind several fields that were treated for SCA and are seeing excellent control. Next week we will go up 10 degrees and it's predicted that we will end the week with high temperatures of 101- 103 degrees Fahrenheit, this is important to note as SCA can and will reproduce very quickly in high temperatures increasing populations drastically in 4-5 days. So do go out and evaluate your sorghum and treat if necessary. Other than that, we are picking up on a couple of headworms and couple of stinkbugs but nothing near threshold, very minimal at this time. Also, no signs of midge yet in blooming sorghum.

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 1: 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

Click on link below to access the Sorghum insects guide for insecticide charts:

<https://southtexas.tamu.edu/files/2023/05/managing-insect-and-mite-pests-of-texas-sorghum.pdf>

Click on the link below to access the Cotton insect guide:

https://southtexas.tamu.edu/files/2023/05/Managing-Cotton-Insects-in-Texas-ENTO-075_2019.pdf

Sesame

Sesame was cleaner this week scouting as we checked behind treated fields and were finding good control of mirids and tarnished plantbugs. We were finding many thrips in seedling sesame that warranted treatment along the river in couple of fields. A lot of blooming sesame was clean but do continue to monitor for mirids *N. tenuis* (Figure 2) and tarnished plantbugs (Figures 3) as both these pests can feed on sesame plants causing loss of yield. Please refer to previous Pest Cast 5 for more detailed information regarding these pests in sesame.

***** Please join us on Thursday May 9, 2024, we will be hosting a Cotton & Grain Scouting School for Pests and Diseases at Rio Farms in Monte Alto, 2 IPM & 1 General TDA CEUs. Sign in will begin at 8:30 am, The program will begin promptly at 9am, end by noon, with lunch provided to follow after. See attached flyer for more information. Thanks.**

**** Also for those who want to attend and hear information on "Kaput Hog Bait" we will be hosting Nutrien who will give an informative talk at 1:30 pm at Rio Farms following the Cotton Grain Scouting School. All is welcome to attend and listen.**

Adam Dugan

Nutrien Range & Pasture Manager

Kaput hog bait information

Date: Thursday May 9, 2024

Time : 1:30 pm

Where: Rio Farms in Monte Alto



Figure 2: Several mirid adults and nymphs feeding on sesame



Figure 3: Tarnished plantbugs caught in sweep net in sesame.

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