



## 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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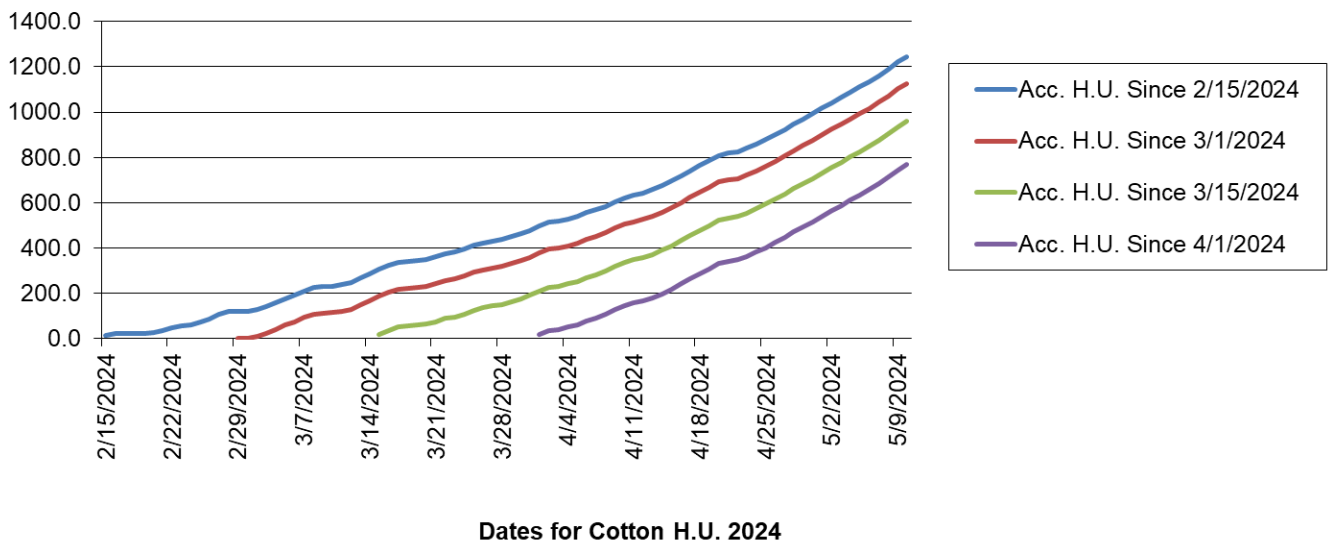
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### General Situation

Dry, hot and very little wind this week. Crops look very stressed again this week as we reached 106° F on Thursday.

2024 Cotton Heat Unit (H.U.) Accumulation Graph



Accumulated Heat Units for Cotton 2024 compared to 2023 at this time

	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	1287	1079	847	622
2024	1246	1128	960	768

### Cotton

According to the TBWEF we are currently at 118,524 cotton acres planted in the LRGV. Cotton this week was looking very stressed, as I saw some cotton being irrigated. There was a lot more cotton blooming this week as the majority is still in the first three weeks of squaring. Was a slow week in cotton as far as pests go. We did see a little bit of cotton fleahopper activity here and there, but most fields were very clean. We picked up on a little bit of whitefly adults along the river as well as some chilli thrips active on the upper leaves in some cotton along the river.

### Grain Sorghum

There were reports of some sorghum in Willacy County being treated for sugarcane aphids this week. Most sorghum we checked sugarcane aphid populations did not increase and were being controlled by many predators and parasitoids. We picked up on a couple of rice stinkbugs and a couple of headworms in soft dough sorghum but nothing of concern just yet. Still no signs of midge yet in blooming sorghum.

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

### Corn

In corn this week we were finding corn leafhoppers. Mostly only finding them in irrigated fields along the river, mid valley in Mercedes, Weslaco, and north Edinburg were we checked had corn leafhoppers present. They are a small pest, about 5mm in size and are a tannish, light yellow in color. You can find the adult corn leafhoppers hopping from leaf to leaf, they are very active/fast, the nymph stages will be crawling fast on the underside of leaves. What will give away the presence of corn leafhoppers in your corn is black sooty mold present because of all the honey dew (stickiness) the corn leafhoppers produce as they feed. We believe if your corn is in the brown silk stage, which majority of the valley is, that the stickiness from the honeydew produced should not affect corn yield and that it will be dried down come harvest time were it should not be a problem. For those whose corn is in “green silk stage” still, if you have an abundance of these corn leafhoppers present producing large amounts of honey dew, you might want to consider treatment as it could affect the development of your corn. There are a few pyrethroids registered that can offer control for leafhoppers. There is no threshold for corn leafhoppers in corn, this is not a pest we usually see down here, and I am currently trying to identify the exact species.



**Figure 1: Corn leafhopper adult in field on corn leaf (left) and then high magnified photo of adult corn leafhopper I took under stereoscope (right).**

**Figure 2: Various photos of Corn leafhoppers present in corn, and the honeydew they produce while they feed with black sooty mold that comes after present on corn leaves.**



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Thanks to all that came to the Cotton & grain scouting school .  
Also Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there.