



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

We received some rain in northern Willacy and Cameron counties earlier this week on Monday night, anywhere from an inch to two inches in some areas and most other areas just a couple of tenths. Today, Friday morning we received some brief showers across the Valley giving us again a couple of tenths of an inch at most a trace in some areas, but any moisture is welcomed and needed.

Cotton

Another slow pest week in cotton as all cotton is now squaring and we have small dime bolls forming as even more cotton is in full bloom this week. We are seeing a few fleahopper nymphs and couple of adults but incredibly low populations and nothing at threshold. A handful of lygus bug nymphs were seen this week as well. As we go forward, we will need to be on the look out for tarnished and verde plantbugs (adults and nymphs), especially as grain sorghum harvest starts in next couple of weeks as they are known for migrating out of sorghum into nearby cotton to feed on young immature bolls. We are still seeing a few cotton aphids, but populations have declined. Also noticing a few whiteflies along river and in mid Valley.

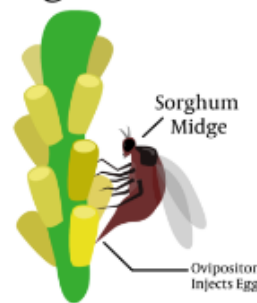
Grain Sorghum

In sorghum we were seeing a natural decline in sugarcane aphids as I believe we have finally reached a definite crash in their populations this week. We have lots of natural predators and parasitism going on controlling sugarcane aphids' populations, even after several fields were treated these last few weeks with insecticide these natural predator populations were able to build again and continue feeding to control sugarcane aphids. In flowering sorghum, we are picking up on a few midge across the Valley but we have not seen any

fields near threshold but will need to keep

monitoring as we are in the time period where midge can populate very easily and affect yields. Sorghum midge are very tiny, they look like small orangish/red mosquitoes that are the size of gnats. Sorghum midge will inject (lay) their eggs into flowering sorghum and when the eggs hatch the midge larvae start to feed from the

Flowering Sorghum



Developing Sorghum Head



Diagram by Jason Thomas.

Figure 1: Diagram of midge larvae feeding by Jason Thomas



Figure 2: Sorghum midge laying eggs in flowering sorghum.

inside of the kernel destroying the developing seed (Figure 1). Threshold for sorghum midge is 1 per head, and the later part of May into June will be critical to continue to monitor for midge from morning till 2pm in flowering sorghum. For soft dough sorghum going forward the thresholds for head worms is 1-2 larvae per head and the threshold for rice stinkbugs is 0.5-1 per sorghum head depending on the planting population. We did not see any headworm or rice stinkbug activity present this week of concern but there are a few out there starting to populate and moving forward all soft dough sorghum needs to be checked to prevent damage. There were a couple of reports of false chinch bugs on sorghum leaves in hard dough sorghum fields this week. Threshold for false chinch bugs in sorghum is about 140/head to cause damage and this would be in soft dough sorghum, once in hard dough not necessarily a problem. Also early vegetative sorghum stages (V1-V4) can be affected but most sorghum in Valley is past these stages. Will monitor for this next week as well.



Figure 4: Rice stinkbug nymphs (red) on left and rice stinkbug adults on right (brownish grey in color)

Proposed changes to Acephate insecticide labels:

The EPA is proposing changes to the labeled uses of Acephate. These changes include “The proposed mitigation is to cancel all uses except tree injection...”

Growers and other stakeholders are encouraged to comment to identify critical uses of acephate.

Acephate, Proposed Interim Decision

FR Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-09181>

Docket: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0915>

PID: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0915-0069>

See more here at:

[20240509 PID Summary for Core Group and IPM Centers](#)

Comments are due July 1, 2024.

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