



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

Very hot and dry this week as temperatures are right at 100°F during day and 80°F at night. Cotton growers have been very busy harvesting sorghum and corn and have been applying PGRs to their cotton this week.

Cotton

This week in cotton we are seeing Verde plantbugs and tarnished plantbugs in cotton with large squares and dime size bolls. Lots of sorghum fields are being harvested thus plantbugs (Verdes & tarnished) are moving and flying into nearby cotton fields, so you might want to time it where you harvest your sorghum and spray your cotton next to it right after to prevent feeding damage. Tarnished and Verde bugs feed on penetrable size bolls and large squares and can cause loss of yield as well as degrade the quality of the lint by secreting a toxin while they feed. Threshold to treat for plantbugs is when you have 20-25 bugs/100 plants, or (1-2 bugs per 10 sweeps) or (4-5 per 20 sweeps) or if you are using a beat bucket it is when you are averaging 1 per plant. Make sure to access your cotton field to see if you have more immature bolls than mature as once bolls are larger than 1 inch diameter and cannot be squeezed open they are generally safe from plant bug damage. We were finding plenty of plantbug activity at threshold in cotton around Weslaco, Rio Hondo, and in our cotton trial in Lyford area. Other pest activity in cotton is a few chilli thrips and whitefly adults in some cotton along the river.



Figure 1: tarnished plantbugs



Figure 2: Verde plantbugs



Figure 3: Sugarcane aphids in sorghum ready to harvest

Grain Sorghum

Grain sorghum is being dried down and harvesting is going on now. I am starting to pick up on sugarcane aphids on a few leaves in sorghum ready for harvest on the leaves that are still green but hopefully populations will stay low as harvest continues. For late younger sorghum, headworm activity is very high in soft dough stage and for vegetative sorghum I am getting calls about fall

armyworm feeding abundantly on the plant killing the growing point.

Sesame

Sesame looks clean of pests this week as we are only seeing a few tarnished and a few mirids active.

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