



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

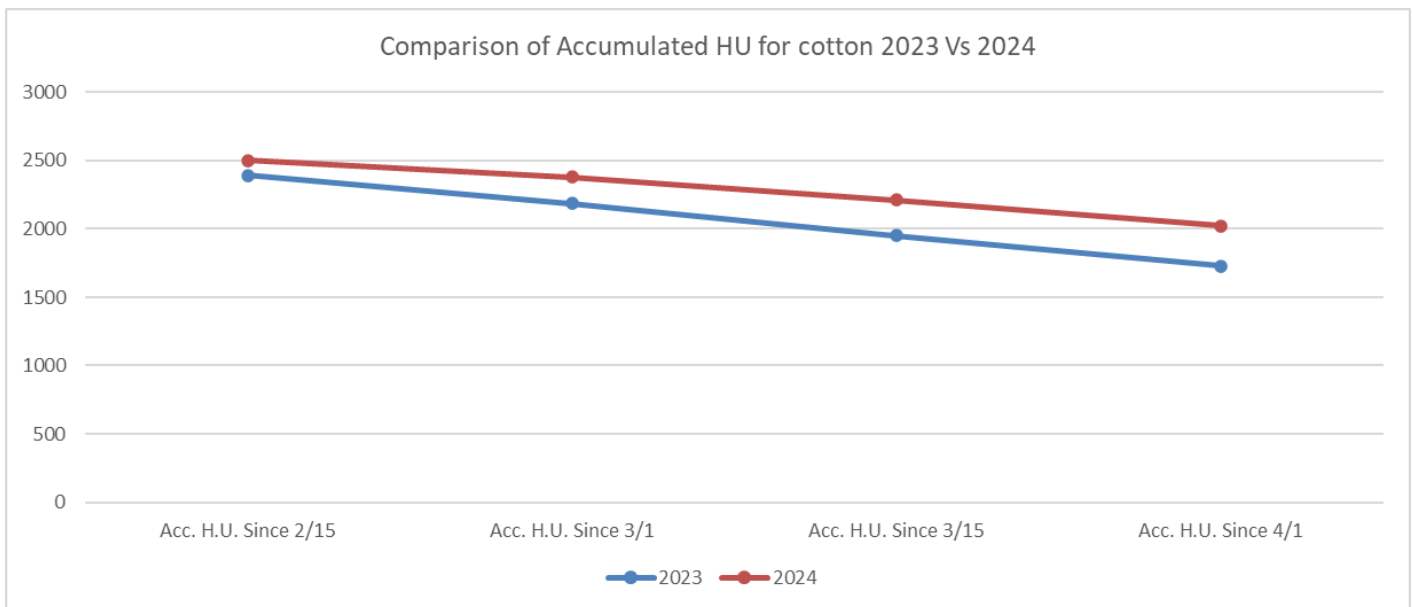
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Volume XLVI

Issue 13, June 28, 2024

General Situation

Last week the LRGV received some rains accumulating from Tuesday night till Saturday totaling a good 4-5 inches in most of the Valley. Some areas in northern Hidalgo & Willacy counties received rain totals of anywhere from 5-7 inches. This week we have been drying out, with day temperatures averaging at 95°F with a heat index of about 105°F, and just very muggy hot conditions with plenty of mosquitos to go around.



Comparison of Accumulated Heat Units 2023 vs 2024				
	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	2393	2185	1953	1728
2024	2499	2381	2213	2022

Cotton

We are seeing majority of our cotton this week with mostly mature bolls (90-95%), which makes sense as cotton planted mid-March and earlier, we are well over 2100 accumulated heat units. I say this because majority of the cotton we looked at this week had a couple of Verde or tarnished plantbugs but not enough immature bolls to justify treatment. However, there was a handful of younger later planted cotton fields in Hidalgo and Cameron counties with penetrable bolls turned in for treatment of plantbugs this week. Most cotton received treatment for plantbugs (Verde & tarnished) prior to the rains received, and if you did not treat at that time the damage was done and noticed this week after the rains. We did see a lot more open boll cotton this week, with 30-40% open boll cotton in northern Hidalgo & Willacy counties and about 10-

20% open boll cotton along the river and in the mid valley. I was happy to see that cotton that had cracked bolls before the rains seemed to have opened fine and didn't notice any hard locking going on. Also, as the week progressed was seeing cotton dry out and fluff up. We are seeing a few whiteflies, mainly along the river and chille thrips in low populations but mostly seeing their bronzing feeding damage to cotton leaves. Aside from this we did notice more fields with some fungal leaf spotting and discoloration. We are mainly seeing fungi – the *Alternaria* sp., and *Stemphyllium* sp. occurring and especially after the rains with this high humidity it has caused even more leaves crisping and premature defoliation, but yield has been set and treatment not necessary this late in the season as we head towards harvest time next month.

Grain Sorghum

Was happy to see this week that it looked like about 90-95% of all the Valley's grain sorghum crop has been harvested. Those who were unable to harvest might want to check for sugarcane aphid pressure and consider adding an insecticide for control to the harvest aid as its best to avoid honey dew build up so combines will not get clogged and breakdown during harvest time. We did spot high populations of sugarcane aphids in some sorghum still yet to be harvested and saw plenty of glistening leaves.

Sesame

Sesame looks good after the rain, even those fields already drying down did not seem to be affected by the rains. The pod loads look good as sesame starts drying down heading towards harvest time.

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