



## 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 in Cotton

After one of the most rainiest July's in the LRGV during cotton harvest season we have been able to dry out this week and last and see some cotton harvesting taking place now as well as many more fields being treated with defoliant. We went from a very dry drought stricken cotton growing season to a very wet harvest season. With that said Cameron and Willacy counties were hit the worst by the ongoing rain events as their cotton was the furthest along at the beginning of July (most with 75- 90% open bolls) and received numerous rains (about 10 rains or more) knocking off cotton from the lower half of the plant to the ground losing a significant amount of their yields. There was also visual evidence of cotton seed sprouting, more severe in some areas but it varied across the Valley to some degree as well as boll rotting, and strung out cotton. Due to all these weather effects, some cotton was harvested in early July in Cameron and Willacy counties but after many rain events fields began to be shredded/plowed under due to very low yields and seed sprouting. Hidalgo county seemed to fair a little better as majority of cotton seems will be able to be harvested despite the recent rains and is being defoliated and harvested now. Aside from the poor yields I have seen lint stained by black sooty mold that developed from heavy whitefly populations feeding as they have increased with the intense heat last two weeks.



Cotton varieties from both BASF & Phytogen being harvested by Regal AG Farms in Rangerville, Texas (above & bottom)



### Boll Weevil Update From Edward Herrera with TBWEF

According to Edward Herrera, Zone manager for the LRGV Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, this season there were 118,602.3 acres planted into cotton but as it seems now not all will be

carried to harvest. The majority of the cotton acreage being destroyed are from Producers with cotton in dryland areas who are reverting to destroying the crop and not harvesting due to poor production. On the percentage of cotton being prepared for harvest it's edged up to about 30% being defoliated with about 10% of total acreage picked. **On the eradication effort there have been up to 24 boll weevil captures recorded for 2024 to date.** All areas of recent captures are being applied with malathion treatments to kill any emerging adult boll weevils and not allow for continuance of the population. With populations so low it is very important that we make timely treatments to destroy cotton stalks and work with the Producers who are in the process of harvesting or destroying cotton fields. It is also very important that the stalks be destroyed timely and end the possibility of continued hostable material for any adult boll weevils. Any fields with hostable material even after being harvested which are located in areas of recent boll weevil catches will continue to be treated with malathion applications.

**Cotton stalk destruction deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>** but as always as soon as stalks are destroyed it ends the challenge of dealing with boll weevil reproduction and the need for continued malathion applications. The longer the host free period the more significant impact it has on a boll weevil population not being able to survive from one cotton growing season to the next. **There will be an open meeting for anyone to attend of the Cotton Producers Action Committee on August 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at the San Juan TDA**



Cotton stalks being shredded & destroyed in Monte Alto, Texas by McDonald Farms July 2024

**building to have program update and review Stalk Destruction Regulations.** Any actions, recommendations or changes for the Stalk Destruction Program would be up for discussion at this meeting and then followed up by directions being forwarded to the Texas Department of Agriculture for consideration.

### Stalk Control information.

Traditionally, cotton stalks are either destroyed mechanically or with herbicides such as 2,4-D. The application of 2,4-D on cotton stalks has been highly effective, however cotton varieties that possess the Enlist trait (W3FE) are fully tolerant and must be treated with alternative products. For several years, we have been evaluating alternative herbicides and tank mixtures for managing Enlist cotton stalks to keep these fields in compliance with TDA and have found that dichlorprop (2,4-DP) and dicamba are effective options. For best control results wait 2 weeks for regrowth or if adequate regrowth present then treat.

The results of the most recent stalk destruction trial conducted in the LRGV can be found at this link: [https://southtexas.tamu.edu/files/2023/05/Cotton-Stalk-Herbicide-trial-\\_2022.pdf](https://southtexas.tamu.edu/files/2023/05/Cotton-Stalk-Herbicide-trial-_2022.pdf) . In this trial, the greatest control of cotton stalks was achieved with 2,4-DP either alone or tank mixed with tiafenacil (Reviton) or thidiazuron (Dropp, Freefall), dicamba tank mixed with tiafenacil, or a two-pass program of 0.75 lb ae/acre of either 2,4-DP or dicamba plus thidiazuron followed by a second application of 0.75 lb ae/acre 2,4-DP or dicamba. For information within different zones on stalk destruction deadlines and equipment movement you can visit TDA or TBWEF websites for rules and regulations. <https://www.txbollweevil.org/> <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Regulatory-Programs/Cotton-Stalk-Destruction>



**National Cotton Council & “Special Trade Mission from Turkey” visit the LRGV, July 2024**

At the end of July, Dwight Jackson with the National Cotton Council along with several of our local LRGV Cotton growers (Glenn & Hunter Wilde, Brian Jones, Spence Pennigton, and others) hosted an excellent group of cotton textile industry leaders from Turkey. Due to the wet weather, they were not able to see cotton being harvested but they did meet Buddy Ross, visit with him, and see cotton being ginned at Ross Gin on July 24<sup>th</sup> in Mercedes Texas. They were then hosted by the Wilde’s with Anaqua Farms in Lyford Texas where producers and other ag industry people talked about all things cotton in the LRGV while having lunch. We appreciate their visit and sent them on up to Lubbock with CGP of LRGV hats.



**Textile industry leaders of Turkey talking with Buddy Ross of Ross Gin in Mercedes, Texas July 2024**



**Lunch with Special Trade Mission from Turkey at Wilde's Anaqua Farms in Lyford, Texas July 2024**

**Cotton Ginning report**

**Valley CO-OP Oil Mill  
VALCO  
Report #2,  
Date: 08/5/2024**

**Rio Grande Valley Cotton Ginning Report and Comparison Chart**

County	Week Ending	Total to Date Ginned	In comparison with total to date for same week ending in year shown.			
			08/14/2023	(Final) 10/23/2023	(Final) 11/21/2022	(Final) 11/18/2021
		(2024)				
<b>Cameron</b>	1,026	1,400	6,576	62,072	114,294	71,547
<b>Hidalgo</b>	0	1,292	5,595	43,316	98,653	65,735
<b>Willacy</b>	470	470	17,475	70,639	116,540	82,649
<b>Valley Total</b>	1,496	3,162	29,646	176,027	329,487	219,931

<b>Gins with reported data</b>		<b>Total</b>
Cameron County	4	2
Hidalgo Country	4	1
Willacy County	3	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

**Sesame**

In sesame about 80% of the acres have been sprayed with harvest aide and are drying down fast for harvest. An estimated 5,000 acres of sesame have been harvested as of this week in the LRGV. Despite the July rains the sesame has finally managed to dry out with the intense heat and the yields plus quality are better than expected.



**Sesame ready for harvest August 2024**



**Thank you, Cotton & Grain Growers, and Pest Cast Sponsors for your continued support and contributions over the years, especially the hard ones. It is greatly appreciated.**

We were able to get lots of fieldwork done and will have data available on trials done in the near future.

Thanks again for all the support... Sincerely, Danielle Sekula.

## Thank You 2024 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors!

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- \*Americot-NexGen
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- \*Corteva
- \*Hidalgo County Farm Bureau
- \*Sesaco
- \*Sun Valley Dusting Co.
- \*Valley Co-op Oil Mill

### Silver



- \*Adams Farms
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