



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

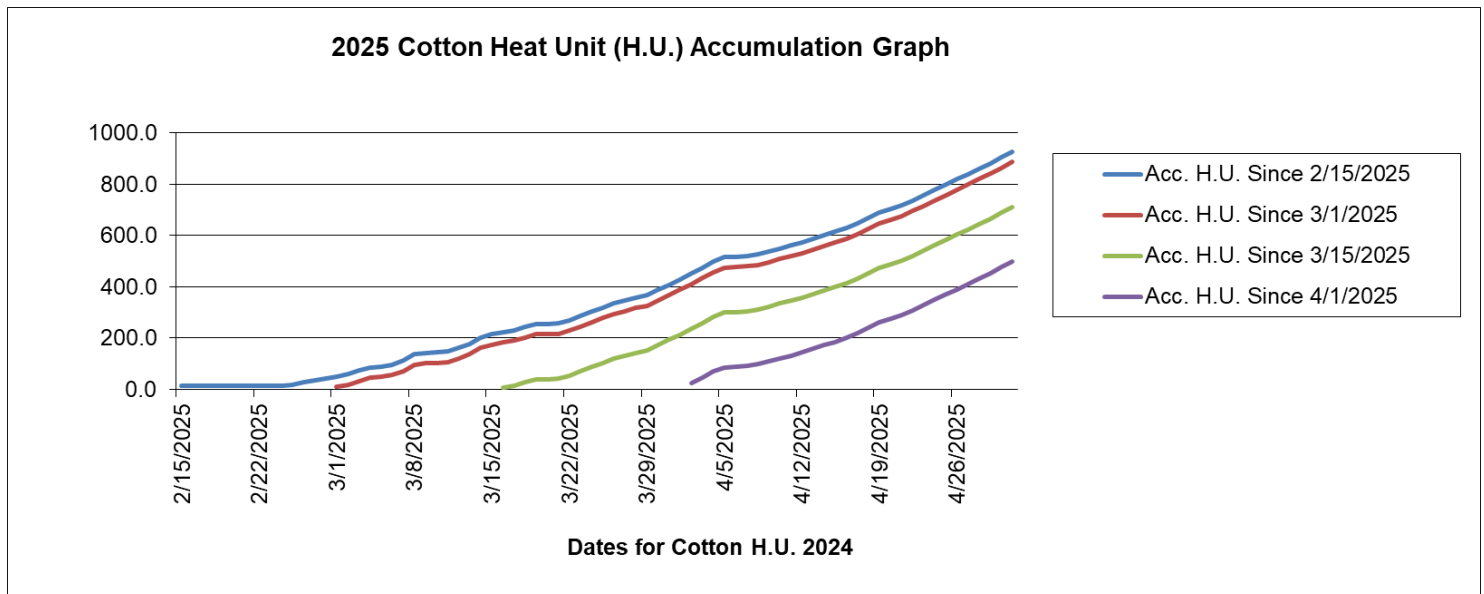
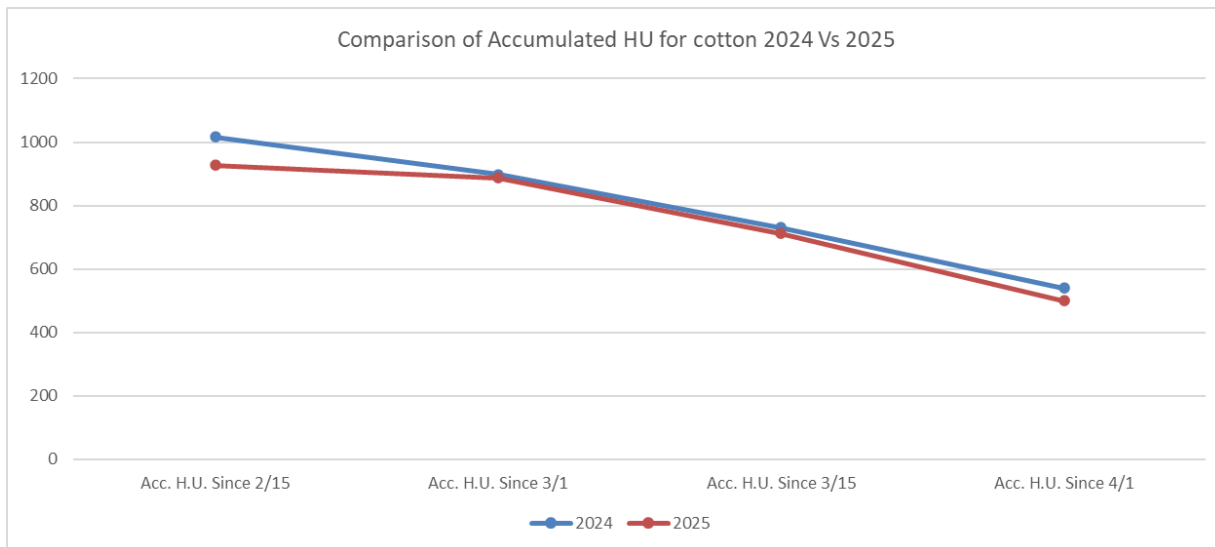
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General Situation

Still windy in the LRGV with wind speeds of about 30 mph making spray applications difficult for growers. We continue to have high temperatures of 88-90°F and lows in mid 70s at night. Many growers have been irrigating corn, controlling weeds, and pests in various crops this week. Our heat units are right in line with last years heat units at this time (see graphs below).



Cotton

We have cotton from 2 true leaves to 3rd week of squaring. Cotton aphids have peaked this week with several fields being treated that were not treated last week. Many cotton fields were clean but some had moderate to high populations of cotton aphids, predators just were not able to keep up with the exponential growth. In squaring cotton only saw 1 fleahopper this week and have not seen any blasted squares.

Sorghum

We have all stages of sorghum from just emerged to flowering stage. In booting, flag leaf, and flowering sorghum we were picking up on pockets of sugarcane aphids this week. Most sorghum fields looked very clean, however in Cameron County we were seeing some sorghum fields with glistening leaves from honey dew secreted by high populations of sugarcane aphids and some sorghum fields were treated for SCA this week.



Figure 1: Glistening from honey dew secreted by SCA feeding on underside of Sorghum leaves



Figure 2: SCA feeding on underside of Sorghum leaves

Threshold for SCA is 50+ SCA per leaf. In newly emerged sorghum I was picking up on a couple of fall armyworms, going forward any newly emerged sorghum (V1-V2) needs to be checked for fall armyworm pressure to prevent seedlings from being destroyed.

Corn

Majority of the Valley's corn is in the dough stages, R1-R4, with most fields silks turning brown. The cornleaf aphids we were finding up in the tassels have dissipated as they were controlled by natural predators (ladybugs & lacewings). Also as of this week monitoring for corn leafhoppers we were not picking up on any, maybe just a handful in the Olmito area. We did see a natural decline of corn leafhoppers as of this week in the southern Cameron County area closer to the river and just were not

seeing them present, which was great. Other pests of concern were stinkbugs in some corn but these seem to be isolated events, and even though not much information on stinkbugs in corn, from literature read in other states, once the corn is past R1-R2 (blistering stage) and gets to R3-R4 the kernels should be hard enough for them not to be penetrable.

Sesame

We have vegetative and seedling sesame up this week. In the McCook area we were seeing 1-2 beet armyworms (instars 1-3) feeding on newly emerged sesame as spray treatments are being done now to control them. In other areas of the Valley, (Harlingen and Rio Hondo) we were scouting sesame and only picking on a handful of worms and some light to moderate thrips pressure. For thrips pressure it is only a concern in seedling sesame once in the vegetative stages the plants seem to tolerate moderate thrips pressure.



Figure 3: Feeding Damage by beet armyworms in sesame in McCook, TX



Figure 4: Beet armyworm feeding on sesame



Figure 5: Beet armyworm feeding on sesame



Figure 6: thrips pressure on sesame

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