



# Northwest Plains Pest Management News

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Bailey and Parmer Counties

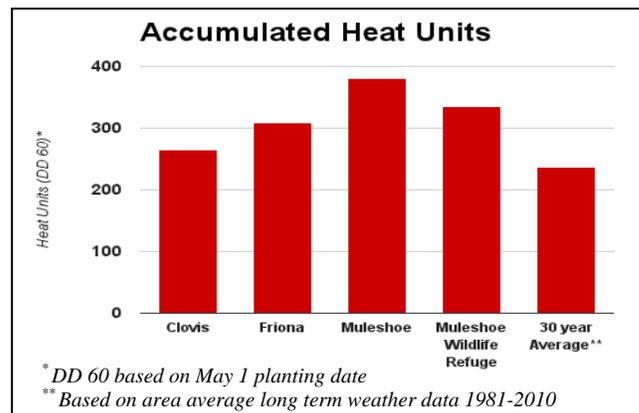
June 6, 2013

Harsh environmental conditions continue to plague the NWP of Texas. The exceptionally dry conditions have dominated local weather even though some much needed precipitation was received June 5. The NWP is right at 50% of the long term average precipitation year to date while the May 1 to date heat unit accumulations are slightly ahead of the long term average.



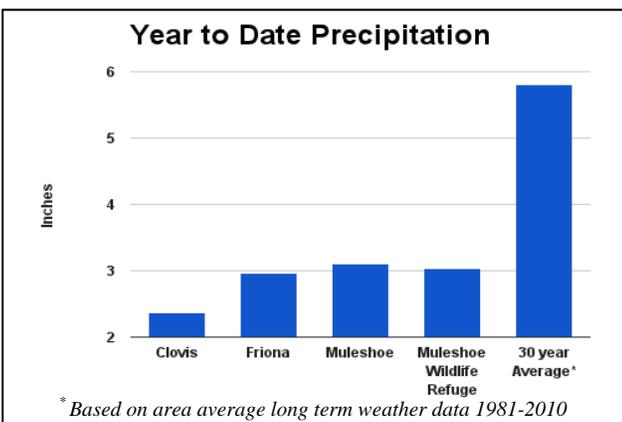
Hail and wind damage

Very high winds associated with recent storm fronts have added “insult to injury”, damaging crops, sprinkler irrigation systems, and power poles. Precipitation recorded by local weather stations ranged from .5 inch to 1.5 inches; some storms also contained damaging hail. Cotton stand counts less than .2 plants/foot



and corn with severe leaf burn have been observed in fields in the path of these storms. The injury to corn at this stage should not result in measurable yield loss. A good article talking about wind and sandblasting damage to corn published by Purdue University can be found at <http://goo.gl/ZpQtm>. Much of the area cotton on the other had has sustained varying degrees of damage, some of which is severe.

On the brighter side, irrigated crops not subjected to or more tolerant of the severe conditions associated



Potential Daily Water Use*	
Crop	Inches per day
Corn V4	.15-.24
Cotton emerged	.18
Sorghum emerged	.14

\*Daily estimated crop moisture demands (inches of water per day) based on PET data from Halfway.

**FOX 950**  
TALK  
the voice for Lubbock

IPM radio show on Fox  
Talk 950 AM Wednesdays  
from 12:30-2:00



<http://nwpipm.blogspot.com/>



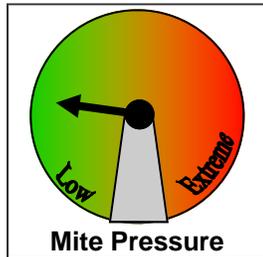
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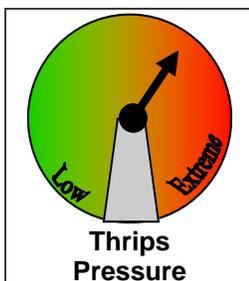
<https://twitter.com/NWPIMP>

with the recent storms look pretty good and in some cases very good. Crops are behind in development compared to last year, for example most cotton is in the cotyledon to 2 true leaf stage compared to 3-4 true leaf stage for the same time last year. Crop moisture demands remain fairly low but will soon rapidly increase, especially in corn.

Spider mites have been observed in area corn and sorghum, particularly on field margins. Now would be a good time to start developing a spider mite management plan, primary strategies are threshold based curative methods or a preventative approach. Regardless of the management strategy employed it is critical to conserve “beneficials”. When considering a preventative miticide application remember current products are not systemic and will only protect the leaves which are sprayed and any subsequent growth will not be protected. Applications to small corn or sorghum are also less cost effective when considering less of the miticide is intercepted by the plant versus an application made to larger crop near canopy closure. The additional application cost of a “dedicated” preventative miticide application would likely be a good trade for the added protection offered by more crop coverage.



Thrips pressure in cotton continues to climb. I have observed immature thrips in some cotton which had a seed treatment insecticide applied. If immature thrips are present following seed treatments then the treatment has lost or is losing its effectiveness.



Treatment thresholds for thrips in cotton are dynamic; under good growing conditions a foliar treatment should be considered when 1 thrips/true leaf is present but in cotton which is growing slowly due to poor environmental conditions or other stress the threshold should be reduced by 1/2. Area cotton which has been injured by recent storms should be closely monitored as it cannot afford additional loss of leaf tissue. The lack of leaf surface area will make application coverage even more important.



*Environmental damage*

I can not stress enough the need make timely insecticide applications for thrips. Insecticide applications made based on visual plant symptoms are late and will not provide the economic benefit of a timely application and is what I like to call a “revenge” treatment.

I have received several reports of potential glyphosate resistant pigweed. We need to be diligent in managing weeds using multiple and timely tactics.

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