



HIGH  
PLAINS  
IPM  
Update

News about  
Integrated Pest  
Management in  
Bailey, Castro,  
and Parmer  
Counties, from  
John Thobe

June 12, 2020  
Vol 1 – No. 2

## High Plains Crop Update

**Corn** is at V-7 to V-8 and is playing host to many predators in the area as they gain traction in the counties. Thrip counts are outstandingly high in these fields as they provide a food source for these guys moving in. Mainly spiders, lady bugs, and minute pirate bugs for now. I am hopeful that they continue to build in numbers and handle the thrip populations, so they do not move into early cotton. I have not witnessed any whirl feeding yet, but I have been picking up on some wire worm as well as some potential corn root worm problems

**Weeds** have not been as big of a factor this year as I anticipated, from what I have been seeing residual whites as well as some foliar yellows have done a great job for us so far. I am seeing devil's claw, nuts edge, and kochia mainly, producers have done a great job in mitigating spread. Much of the nuts edge I have seen will be shaded out by the corn and will not be a problem.

**Disease** has been low in much of what I have seen. I would venture to say that every cotton field has a bit of verticillium in it, as it pre-exists, it is something we can come up with a long-term solution to. Through rotation and cleaning off equipment between fields we can move this disease to more desirable levels. In corn I am seeing some early rust as well as gray leaf spot, nothing at a level of threshold thus far.

**Insect pests** mentioned at this time of the year seem to revolve around thrips, I have only scouted one field that had anything at threshold set by A&M which is one per true leaf. We have them, but as I mentioned in this week's radio show they are not at levels to justify an application. I hope that we can push past without making that application that many producers East of here are having to make.



Gray leaf  
in corn



**Cotton** in the area is taking a beating from the harsh West Texas winds blowing sand and eroding early leaves. We have everything from emergence to first square as you move through the counties. I have observed only one field that is at threshold for thrips as mentioned earlier. Thrips are concentrated more on corn as it is producing more of an opportunity for them.



**Environmental:** This brings me to my main talking point, the harsh start to the year has given cotton a hard time since emergence. Broken terminals, torn up leaves, and blowing sand has taken its toll on these delicate plants. Regrowth is still a possibility as a secondary growing point will establish itself along the main terminal. The picture to the right is a plant that is going to be counted as dead. The growing point will not re-establish itself. This will, of course, effect plant populations in the field. This damage could be to the extent of a field failing and being claimed to insurance. Stand counts will need to be conducted in order to determine plant populations within a field.

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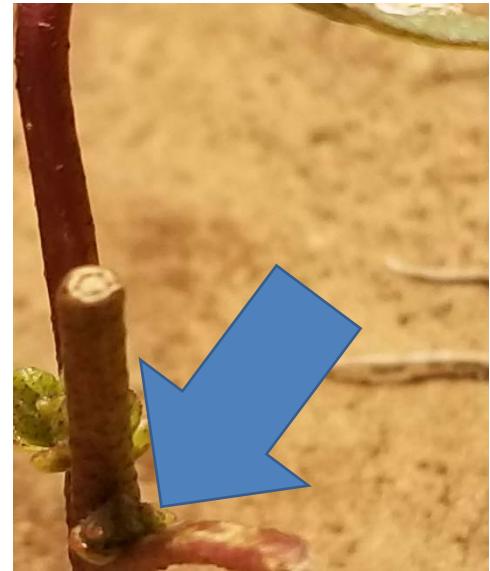
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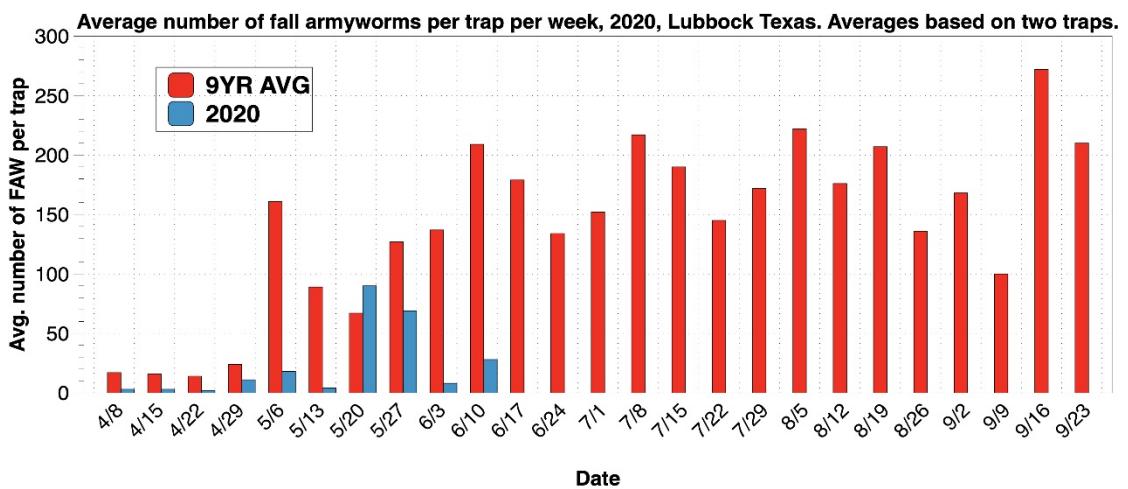
Secondary growth stemming from the main terminal is what we must consider as a saving grace. More than likely if the plant must use this it is going to be missing some leaves as well.

We must remember though this plant may only have a single leaf on it, below the soil surface this plant has a root system established for multiple leaf cotton. This plant will be set back due to the use of this secondary growing point, but still has potential to being a prosperous plant.



As you can see in the picture to the right, the secondary growth point is on its way to re-establishing itself as a healthy plant. This will take some time to catch back up to its neighbors.

How long depends on the next 2 weeks really. In a perfect world it will set itself back on track during this time and other than growing at a bit of an angle you will not notice a difference.



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As usual Texas A&M AgriLife likes to be in the know about what every region is seeing. In the picture above we can see that Lubbock has seen a drastic decrease in the number of fall army worm populations this year compared to the 9-year average.

I too will be monitoring moth movements, mine will consist of boll worm, as well as corn ear worm. These results will be shared in this newsletter.

Along with this I have finished my first round of Nematode sampling, these results will be posted on the next edition as I do not have all the results back yet. This test was conducted to act as an initial overview of populations found in geographically conscientious areas throughout the counties I serve.

### A personal note from Me

I am still looking forward to meeting with all of you and getting to know you, for now I will continue to scout acres in my counties. If you ever have any questions about my newsletter or one of my colleagues' letters that will be sent out, please feel free to contact me. I have established many acres and will continue to fill in gaps in coverage as the season progresses. I want to thank you for all the support given and would like to thank John David Gonzales for all his help.

**High Plains IPM Update** is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Bailey, Castro, and Parmer Counties.

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(Weekly IPM regional radio show)

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