



HIGH
PLAINS
IPM
Update

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

June 12, 2020

Vol 1 – No. 4

High Plains Crop Update

Been a bit of a slow year for insect pressures, given the limited rainfall, high temperatures, and consistent wind gusts. One would think insect pressures would affect us more this year than most years.

In corn, we can see gray leaf spot in every field in moderate to low pressures. Even early on we saw predators take off and build up numbers as thrip counts in corn drew in promising beneficials. Those same predators that were building up have done a great job in keeping spider mite populations in check.

As we move from tassel to grain filling, we are starting to see the spider mite populations build as they overcome these predators. Many producers are staying on top of these building populations equipped with miticides with a residual to get them through till harvest. For those of you waiting to see if predators will get you to the finish line, I express that accurate scouting can mean the difference in a costly “feel good” spray and an economically sound decision to eliminate mites.

In cotton, stages range from full season just reaching pinhead squares to first bloom seen in Parmer county. Lygus in the area have been relatively quiet, while cotton flea hoppers remain spotty in the region. This past week numbers have dipped from where they were just before the fourth of July weekend, when we caught this last rain.

Predator populations in cotton have been in good shape as well, with the introduction of big eye bugs and spiders making up the majority of these populations.



Big eye bug

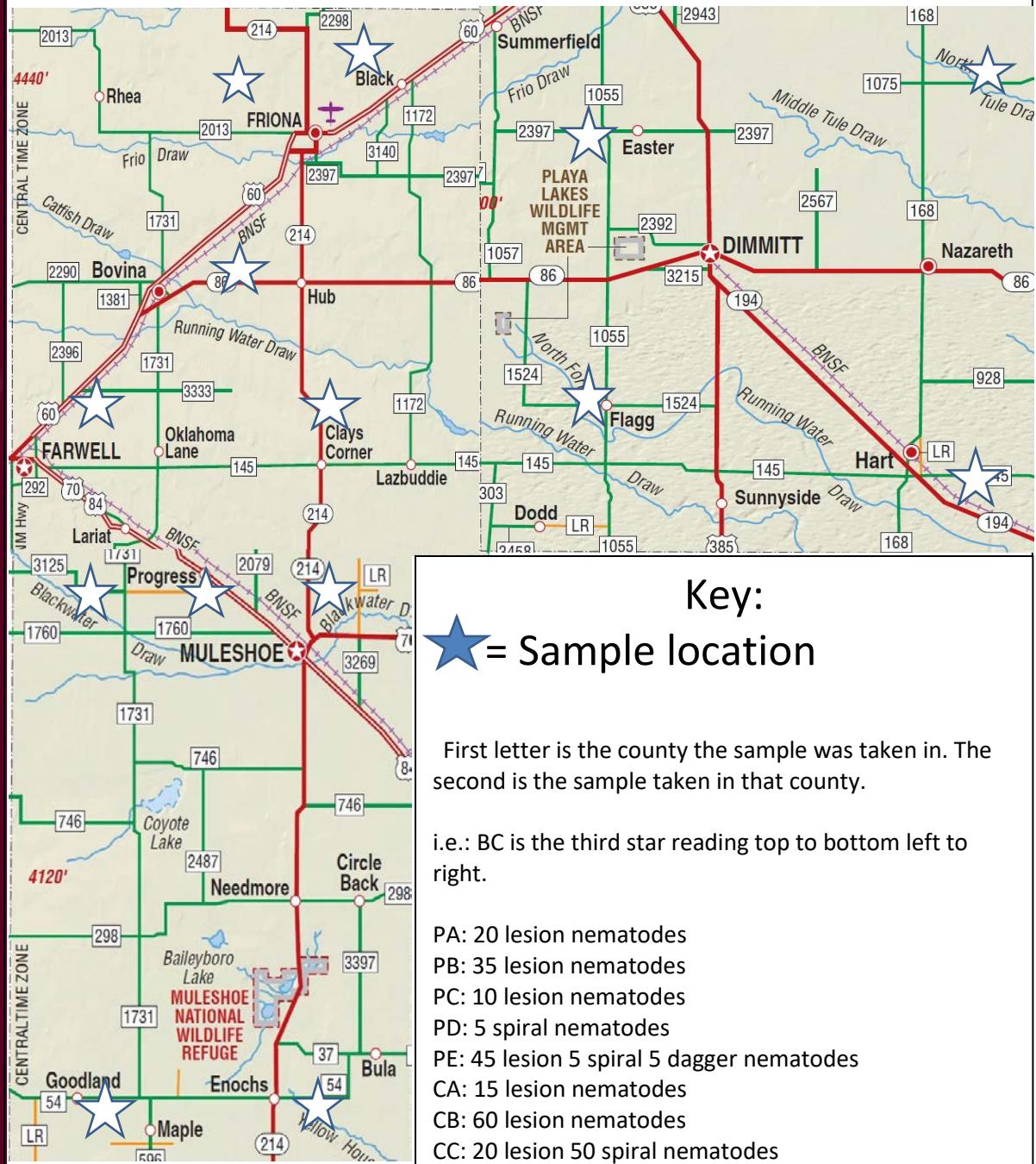


Lygus



Cotton Flea hopper

Nematode Sampling Results



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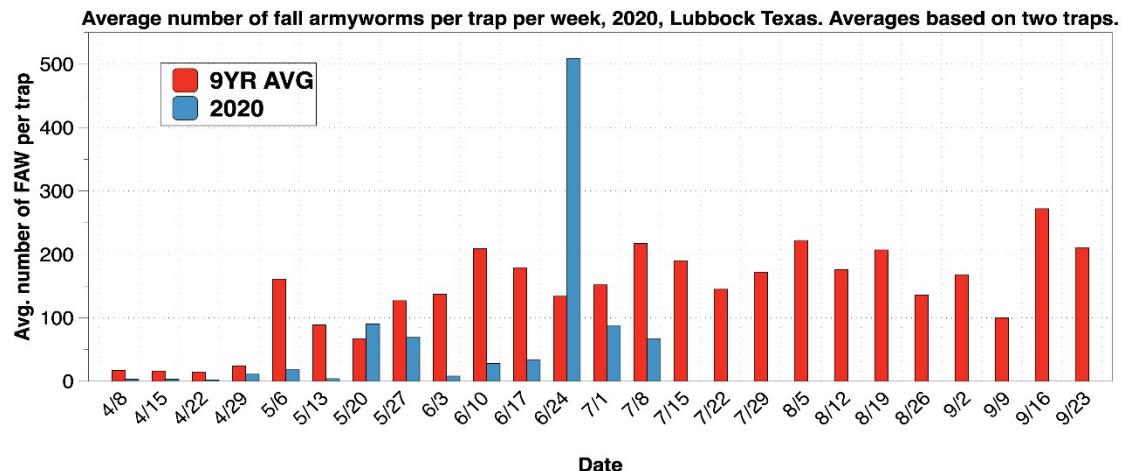


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Some nematodes were found, but the populations were very low and not economic for most sites, the extreme southern area aside. In those sandier soils, control measures could be warranted. The most notable finds were that in Southern Bailey county where the **root-knot** nematodes were located. The samples yielded very low numbers, much lower than anticipated. Samples will be collected again later in the year once the populations have had a chance to run through a full growing season.

Based on 100cc of soil



As you can see our fall army worm weekly count continues to be low in numbers for this year. Minus that freak spike on that last week in June, we have seen significantly lower numbers based on our 9-year average for the region.

Though we cannot base these found numbers on local populations in our area it does hold some truth. So far this year army worms have been very few and far between. I have noticed some whirl feeding in the area, but nothing to raise a red flag about.

This last week I have put up traps located in South Eastern Castro and South Eastern Parmer in order to catch movements of cotton bollworm activity and these results will be posted on the newsletter to follow, Volume 1 version 5

I want to thank Terry Wheeler for her work in the Identification of these nematodes in the samples presented these last few weeks. I also want to thank the sponsors listed below for their support in my newsletter and my program.

Attached is a PDF containing more information provided by Allstar fuel speaking about fuel tank hygiene both for equipment as well as personal vehicles.



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