



## Western HIGH PLAINS IPM Update

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



June 21, 2021  
Vol 2 – No. 4

IPM Podcast Click

[Here](#)

### Western High Plains Crop Update

Happy Monday everyone, environmental conditions are shaping up to be more of a typical June that we tend to expect here in the Western High Plains. As hot and dry conditions start to stack up, so do some pests that thrive on lush crops.

**Cotton** in the area ranges from Cotyledon to 1/8 of a square roughly the size of a match-head. Some dry-land in the area may actually do something if we could catch a few more timely rains.

In the irrigated we have seen roughly ~90% of acres treated for thrips as our residual herbicide runs out and we need to make a pass to take care of escapes. Many adjustments have been made, due to the availability of many herbicides, we are not the only ones feeling this effect, as we see it across the state.

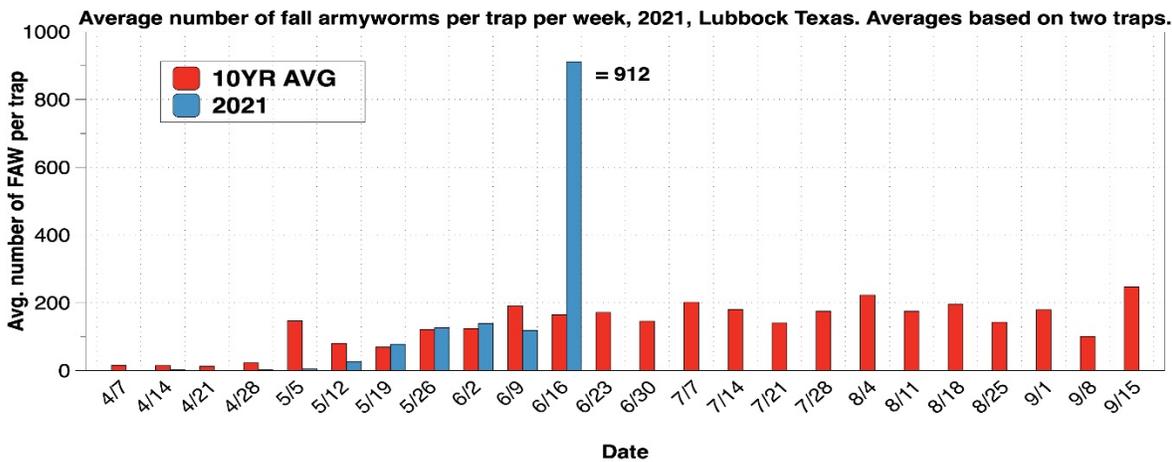
Other than thrips we are seeing a few seasonal pests here and there such as the cotton aphid I have been picking up, in very small populations of course. We do want to be on the look out for **Cotton Flea Hoppers** (CFH) in this coming week. Remember that the threshold for these guys is going to be 1 / 2.5 row foot so if you're looking for them yourself it doesn't take long to catch these numbers. I do want to caution that we do like some associated damage (square drop) with it. Not saying lose the farm waiting on a spray but I do question how long they are going to stay if the damage isn't present. Count those squares and the positions carefully.



Always be looking for this fruiting position before making an application.



**Corn** in the area got some good moisture with the early showers we had and has been able to canopy well to hold on to a bit of it as it shades the underlying ground. We are as always looking for early season pests before we run into spidermite time of year. Mild whirl feeding can be seen in the field from fall armyworm, threshold for **FAW is going to be 30% infested plants**, I was informed by a local consultant that FAW damage levels can get high enough every decade or so in order to merit an application for them. Though the plant looks rough the growing point is still viable and can easily come back with limiting long term effects. Below is the FAW graph out of Lubbock done by Dr. P Porter



We did catch a very high population of FAW there in Lubbock really coming in 2 days as we were told. Late May last year we did have a high population ~600 and these numbers did jump back down to the average in the coming weeks but this high population is still enough to keep an extra eye out for them.

**Sorghum** in the area is all over the place in terms of stage with some to go in still! I am excited to say that we did get a sorghum variety trial planted this past week just North of Muleshoe, and I will be taking agronomic, flowering, and yield notes on these varieties.

We are of course going to have some of the same FAW activity in the sorghum as the corn, and we need to watch for that **30%** as well. Sugarcane Aphid (SCA) may have done some overwintering here and of course will always be a pest in sorghum but it's become a bit more of a "Normal" pest and we will be on the lookout for it!

Lastly, I want to say a big thank-you to the companies listed to the left for all their help and continued support in my newsletter as well as my program!

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

Editor: John Thobe, Extension Agent-IPM  
 Contact information: 118 W Ave C Muleshoe, Tx 79347

