



Western
HIGH
PLAINS
IPM
Update

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



July 15, 2021

Vol 2 – No. 8

IPM Podcast Click

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Western High Plains Crop Update

Getting this update out a day early, not much has changed from last week as we see a bit more sun and catch up on some heat units moving into the middle of July. Overall, we are very behind.

Sorghum in the area ranges from planted this week to on the verge of booting in some locations across the tri- county area. As we look into the entomology side of things, we still have light whirl feeding by fall army worms and headworms, as well as corn leaf aphids. Always something to monitor, yet we don't put much stock into these insects unless the numbers are astronomically high.

Spidermites do look as though they have caused the slightest damage in sorghum, as well as weeds in the road ditches. As soon as they got here the predators were waiting for them and the first round of them are now all gone. Much like what we saw last year predators take out the first couple of waves and once out numbered then we have to make an application.

SCA in the area have not been found to my knowledge, still keeping Lubbock's findings as well as IPM agent's scouting acres in our East on my radar, also as we spoke about last week, to our New Mexico friends to the West.

Corn in the area isn't much more consistent as stage is concerned. I've been told we had someone plant just this past week. For the most part we are sitting in that V-8 all the way to Green silks. Fall army worm continues to be an eye sore, only one field to my knowledge has been treated. Disease is still surprisingly low, even with the amount of rain we have gotten across all counties.

I have caught **some spidermites** in corn already, very light and inconsistent to say the least. They are sharing the same pattern as the sorghum in that many corn acres have seen the spidermites but as they show up predators were waiting for a snack.

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[I would like to invite everyone to check out their County's Facebook pages for updates on local events and actives!](#)

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Cotton in the area again ranges, but the stage gap is much smaller, looking at pinhead squares to 3/4 grown squares. This depends of course on planting date, variety, and of course environmental conditions. Many acres planted early this year saw a stall out period where the plant sat there for a bit and didn't have this rapid growth we are seeing now.



Insect pressure has of course been on everyone's mind, after the thrips, **flea hoppers and lygus** began to show up. We are still very much looking for them, we are going to be **worried about them until we see consistent bloom across the field**. I could see this pressure increase as shredders make their way across fallow fields and pasture lands.

PGR's are going out over much of the acres and should be considered on cotton that you are consistently picking up 1-1.25" from the top of the terminal to the fourth fruiting site or node down from the upper most node.

Many are putting out these plant growth regulators as we make herbicide applications. Residuals are wearing off as I am seeing 2-4" pigweed begin to carpet some fields.

Scouting Technique

I have noticed that the drop cloth is not always picking up the pressure if that fleahopper nymph is really buried up in that terminal of the cotton plant. During an inspection I do a drop cloth first, then turn around and catch square drop and full plant inspections on 5 plants. Then I take an additional 5 plants and just check the terminals for these fleahoppers bound in that growing point. I do this 5 times at least per field to get a good look as well as checking a few terminals in between sites.

Chemical Control and Action Thresholds

Table 7. Lygus action threshold

Cotton stage	Sampling method	
	Drop cloth	Sweep net
1st two weeks of squaring*	1-2 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set	8 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set
3rd week of squaring to 1st bloom	2-3 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set	15 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set
After peak bloom	4-6 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks	15-20 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks

Sweep net: Standard 15-inch net, sample 1 row at a time, taking 15-25 sweeps. Recommended before peak bloom.

Drop cloth: Black recommended, 3-foot sampling area, sample 2 rows. Recommended after peak bloom. Stop sampling and treating when NAWF = 5 + 350 DD60's.

*In West Texas, insecticide applications for lygus are rarely needed in prebloom cotton as lygus generally stay in roadside weeds and vegetation until cotton begins flowering.

To the left I have action thresholds for **Lygus** using the sweep net as well as the drop cloth method!

I am picking up lygus and I know consultants and reps are too. Remember they are as spotty as our summer showers of late.



Table 4. Cotton fleahopper action thresholds

Region	Fleahoppers	Cotton growth stage								
Blacklands	10–15 per 100 terminals (terminal inspection)	During squaring								
Coastal Bend Winter Garden Lower Rio Grande Valley	15–25 per 100 terminals (terminal sampling) In development: 20–40 adults and nymphs per 100 plants (beat bucket sampling)									
Panhandle	25–30 per 100 terminals (terminal inspection)									
Permian Basin Rolling Plains Trans Pecos		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week of squaring</th> <th>Square set</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st week</td> <td>< 90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd week</td> <td>< 85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd week</td> <td>< 75%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Week of squaring	Square set	1st week	< 90%	2nd week	< 85%	3rd week	< 75%
Week of squaring	Square set									
1st week	< 90%									
2nd week	< 85%									
3rd week	< 75%									
		After 1st bloom, treatment is rarely justified.								



Table 4 (above) shows the suggested thresholds for CFH in terminal checks (as I spoke about earlier this is a whole plant inspection, as well as the growing point of the plant).

Above we see two plants side by side taken out of the same field and the amount of square drop associated with CFH. As you can see, we are very sporadic with the pressure as well as the associated square drop. These pockets of CFH are not only in field to field though-out the panhandle they are also hitting one side of the field to the other.

Keep an eye out, stay safe, and have a great weekend out there.

Thanks to the sponsors listed to the Left this week!!

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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