



Western HIGH PLAINS IPM Update

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



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Western High Plains Crop Update

Not the start we wanted, but it's the start we got.

Good afternoon all, acres are still going in across the tri- county area as we inch closer to the end of May. Rain chances in the forecast give a bit of hope for the start of this growing season. It seems like when we get a 40% chance of rain people forget that there is a 60% chance it wont rain, or that the accumulation wont be worth getting hopes up. Be optimistic, its all we can do at this point!

Starting off with the **Wheat** in the area, late May we see it all from silage choppers to terminated wheat stubble to plant a row crop. Acres of wheat this year were greatly diminished due to the lack of precipitation over the winter and early season rainfall. As we spoke about last week the brown mite as well as the Russian wheat aphid made its mark this year, hitting wheat from Febuary until now. Chemical control for these pests were limited, producers did what they could to keep populations down. Ultimately these pests were kept at bay with older chemistries in order for us to get to this point in the season. There still isn't a definate fix for the Russian wheat aphid, and the Dimetholate tap is running dry on the Brown mite control.



Corn in the area saw an increase in planted acres this last week surprisingly. Some are still waiting on that rain, I can safely say that 65% of acres are in that were booked. The remaining 35% of acres to go in could be waiting on a rain, more pre-irrigation, or guys could switch gears to a different crop.

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

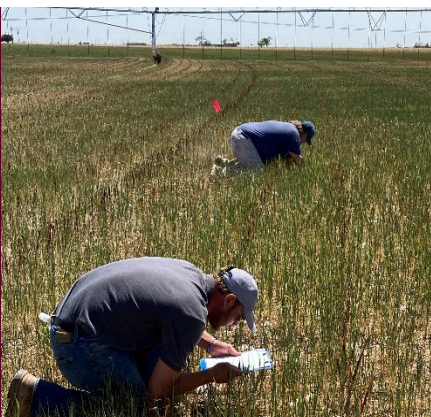
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Russian Wheat Aphids, Wheat, Bushland Tx.



Blayne Reed and Myself counting brown mites, Picture taken by Brandy Reed

I want to say a huge Thank-you to all of my sponsors this year, great to see the support in both my program but also in their local community!

Sorghum in the area saw a bit of slow down going in, as many keep it in the back of their mind for a hail out situation. I have a variety trial to put in this year that is a bit of a tough sell. If you are interested give me a call! Acres will double if we get another hail situation in the coming weeks, as of now we are more focused on cotton or corn.

Cotton acres jumped up this past week, more acres are going in on dryland to try to get ahead of this potential rain we have forecasted for this coming week. Irrigated acres range from germination to three true leaves. Getting cotton up and going is the main concern with available soil moisture out there. Many are putting down pre-irrigation anywhere from 1-2 inches then going back over it with 3/4 of an inch to break a bit of crust and keep their stand looking good. 85% of acres are in already and this percent should be close to 99% this time next week.

On the Entomological side of things, thrips have made a big statement hitting many of the acres I take a look at. No-till, wheat stubble, prepped ground, bedding fields thrips don't discriminate. Tough to see thrips on cotton that doesn't even have a true leaf on it yet. The threshold is going to be one thrips per true leaf. Make sure you are checking that first true leaf, terminal, anywhere the thrips can get out of the wind they will be hiding.

Let me know if you have any questions about anything! Y'all stay safe out there and keep praying for rain. Look forward to seeing many of you this year as I make my way around!



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