

Stephen Biles

186 CR 101

Port Lavaca, TX 77979

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

(o) 361-552-3324

(m) 361-920-1138

biles-sp@tamu.edu

VOLUME 9

ISSUE 4

June 4, 2013

Current Conditions

Rainfall fell across the area Sunday but left some areas dry.

Temperatures continue to below average for this time of year. The table to the right shows how Heat Unit accumulation of the past nine days (red) compares with normal (blue). Heat unit accumulation is occurring at about 60% of normal. (<https://cwp.tamu.edu>)

Grain Sorghum

The earliest Sorghum fields are past bloom at milk stage. Scout these fields for **stink bugs** and **headworms** using a bucket. We are finding headworm populations ranging from 0-5 medium and large worms per 10 heads.

Much of our sorghum is in some part of the bloom period. Sorghum is susceptible to damage from **sorghum midge** while it is blooming. Decision making is much more difficult in fields with mixed emergence. It is important to count the number of blooming heads per acre and not assume a certain population of susceptible heads.

Sorghum Economic Threshold Calculators

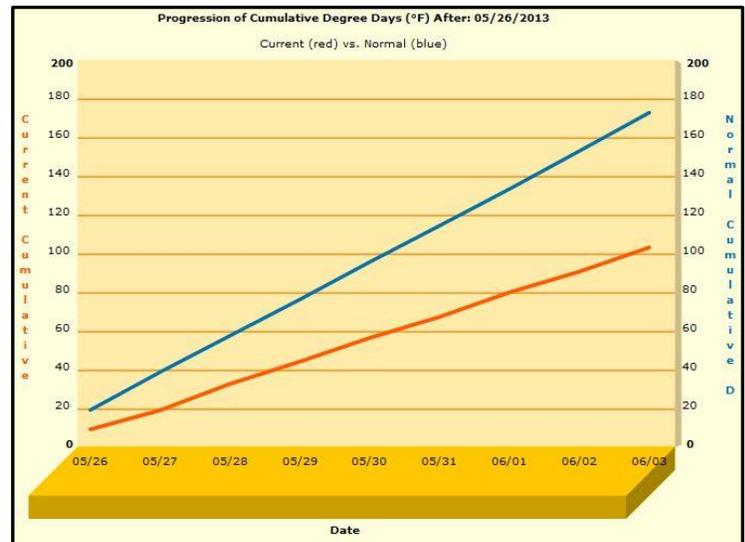
<https://insects.tamu.edu/extension/apps/sorghummidgecalculator/index.php>

<https://insects.tamu.edu/extension/apps/sorghumheadwormcalculator/index.php>

<https://insects.tamu.edu/extension/apps/sorghumricestinkbug/index.php>

Cotton

Cotton fields range from pin-head square to bloom. Blooming cotton has from 8-10 nodes above white flower, indicating good growing conditions.



We are finding **aphids** in small areas of some fields. The rule of thumb with aphids is to recheck problem fields 2-3 days after a high population is found to determine if the population is increasing or decreasing. After this past weekend's rainfall, I expect aphid numbers to fall as a result of the rain and increased humidity which will increase the presence of a fungus which will kill aphids.

- Squaring cotton is susceptible to the **cotton fleahopper** and **verde plant bug**. I have found some cotton fields with fleahopper populations as high as 25-30 per 100 plants but not yet found verde plant bugs.
- Blooming cotton is generally considered safe from cotton fleahoppers since the fleahopper only causes the plant to loose squares smaller than pin-head size.
- Begin looking for evidence of **stink bug** feeding in cotton 10 days after first bloom using an economic threshold of 20% bolls with evidence of feeding.

Scymnus Lady Beetle

A larva of the **Scymnus Lady Beetle** is pictured on the right (white object). This is a commonly found insect in cotton, corn and sorghum fields containing aphids. Like other lady beetles, the scymnus lady beetle feeds primarily on aphids and is considered a beneficial insect.



Research Projects

Current field projects include:

- Sorghum planting rate in Refugio and Calhoun Counties
- Aflaguard use in corn for reducing aflatoxin
- Thrips control with foliar insecticides
- Fungicide use in grain sorghum

Looking for locations for the following trials:

- Cotton Fleahopper control with foliar insecticides (site found)
- Stink bug and headworm control in Sorghum
- Fall armyworm control in bermudagrass pastures

I am interested in conducting research to solve pest management issues on your farm. Call me if you have something I should look into. 361-920-1138

Crop Tours

Refugio County	June 12	Morning Afternoon	Tivoli Bonnieview
Victoria County	June 13	Afternoon	Dacosta
Calhoun County	June 18	Afternoon	Port Lavaca

Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

Woodsboro Farmer's Cooperative

South Texas Cotton and Grain Association

WelFab, Inc.

Helena Chemical

Hlavinka Equipment

Numerous Producers