

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Pest Insects

In the past week we have seen the following insect pests: sorghum midge, rice stink bugs, corn earworm, fall armyworm, cotton fleahopper, thrips and aphids. Plants are growing relatively fast as a result of the high temperatures we have had in the past 30 days.

Grain Sorghum

Many of the grain sorghum fields are in bloom and should be inspected every 2 days for sorghum midge. The midge economic threshold is 1 midge per 1-3 sorghum heads. I have not seen many midge and will be more concerned with later planted sorghum; especially those later planted fields adjacent to earlier sorghum. The midge will tend to build their numbers in the early sorghum and move to the later blooming fields when they begin to bloom.

Most of the sorghum fields I visit have had good weed control and few weeds are found in the field. However, field margins are often not treated with herbicides and can have a lot of grass weeds. This week, I ran a sweep net through the grass on several sorghum field margins and found 20-30 rice stink bugs in 10 sweeps in all of the locations. One IPM strategy is cultural management of controlling weeds in and adjacent to your crop which can harbor pest insects. Johnsongrass and other grasses can be sources of midge and stink bugs. When possible, try to keep the areas surrounding your fields weed free in effort to reduce habitat for pest insects to build up.

Sorghum should be checked for stink bugs and headworms as seed development begins. This is easily done by beating 1-2 sorghum heads into a bucket and counting the insects that fall into the bucket. The economic threshold for Rice stink bug is 1 stink bug in 1-3 sorghum heads. Since I am already finding them on the edges of sorghum fields, I expect to see them enter the fields as the seed on the sorghum head begins to develop.



Cotton

I am finding cotton fleahoppers at numbers above the economic threshold in many cotton fields. Cotton fields with more than 10-15 cotton fleahoppers per 100 plants should be treated if the plants have more than three fruiting sites per plant.

The Bidrin insecticide label has changed to include the squaring period of cotton maturity. While this insecticide can be effective in controlling cotton fleahopper, we are experiencing a great amount of migration of adult fleahoppers into the fields and the preferred insecticide would be one that has

I have seed aphids and thrips on cotton plants but the plants are growing fast enough to prevent damage from the thrips and the aphid numbers are very low.

Table 1. Cotton fleahopper counts and lint yield for various insecticide treatments. (Calhoun County, 2011)

Rating Date		5/9/2011	5/12/2011	5/16/2011	7/22/2011
Trt-Eval Interval		3 DA-A	6 DA-A	10 DA-A	77 DA-A
Trt No.	Treatment Name	Total Cotton Fleahoppers (#/10 plants)			Lint Yield
	Rate Unit				
1	Untreated Check	10.0 a	8.5 a	6.5 a	529.7 cd
2	CMT4586 8 oz/a	1.8 b	0.8 b	4.8 a	556.6 bcd
3	Centric 1.25 oz/a	0.8 b	3.0 b	2.8 a	542.6 bcd
4	Couraze 2 oz/a	3.8 b	2.5 b	3.0 a	616.8 a
5	Belay 4 oz/a	0.5 b	0.5 b	3.0 a	511.5 d
6	Intruder 0.8 oz/a	0.8 b	1.0 b	2.5 a	554.4 bcd
7	ORTHENE 8 oz/a	0.5 b	1.8 b	2.3 a	587.7 ab
8	Carbine 1.7 oz/a	4.3 b	1.8 b	2.5 a	566.3 abc
LSD (P=.10)		3.82	2.69	2.66	53.39
Standard Deviation		3.14	2.21	2.19	43.87
CV		112.72	89.56	64.27	7.86
Treatment Prob(F)		0.0040	0.0011	0.1398	0.0697



2012 CROP TOUR SCHEDULE

JUNE 13, 2012

REFUGIO COUNTY

For information call 361-526-2825

JUNE 19, 2012

CALHOUN COUNTY

For information call 361-552-9747

JUNE 20, 2012

VICTORIA COUNTY

For information call 361-575-4581

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