

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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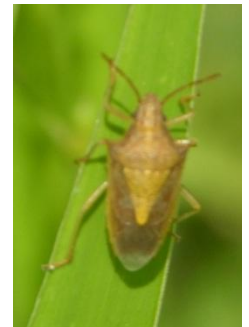
June 1, 2012

PEST INSECTS

In the past week we have seen the following pest insects: Sorghum Midge, Rice Stink Bugs, Corn Earworm, Fall Armyworm, Cotton Square Borer, Aphids, and Cotton Fleahopper.

Grain Sorghum

Sorghum field maturity ranges from approaching flag leaf to soft dough. We are monitoring fields for midge, rice stink bugs and headworms. While we have yet to find midge at treatable levels, I expect **midge** populations to reach treatment thresholds (1 per 1-3 heads) in the near future.



Rice Stink Bugs populations range from 0-3 per head. All fields should be inspected for rice stink bugs after bloom. The easiest and most effective scouting method for counting insects on the sorghum head is to shake sorghum heads into a bucket.

Headworms are being found at low levels of 0-1 per 10 heads. Treatment should be considered when populations exceed 1 earworm or fall armyworm per 1-5 heads.

We are also finding **cotton square borers** in sorghum fields. These are currently being found in the head at 1 per 10-20 heads. The cotton square borer is the caterpillar of the grey hairstreak, a butterfly. The larvae are green with many short hairs giving it a velvety appearance. I would treat these with a similar economic threshold as the sorghum webworm of 4-5 per head.

Table 1. Stink bug counts for various insecticide treatments. (Refugio County, 2011).

Rating Date Trt-Eval Interval	6/22/2011 2 DA-A	6/24/2011 4 DA-A	6/27/2011 7 DA-A
Trt No. Treatment Name	Rate	Unit	
1 Dimethoate	8 oz/a		
2 Lannate	24 oz/a		
3 Baythroid XL	2.8 oz/a		
4 Mustang Max	4 oz/a		
5 Untreated Check			
LSD (P=.10)	5.88	11.25	7.19
Standard Deviation	4.66	8.93	5.70
CV	38.7	79.74	68.31
Treatment Prob(F)	0.0001	0.8600	0.1155



Cotton

Cotton fields range from early squaring to the second week of bloom. Fields we are scouting have between 11 and 15 nodes on the plant with 6-10 fruiting nodes. First position square retention ranges from 57-100%. Most of the early square loss can be attributed to cotton fleahopper feeding.

In blooming fields, we are counting nodes above white flower (NAWF) and finding 6-9 NAWF. Under ideal conditions, the plant will have 9 NAWF at first bloom. Lower values are a symptom of drought stress.

Cotton fleahopper numbers have gone down considerably in the past week but some fields are still susceptible to damage from this insect. Monitoring for cotton fleahoppers should continue until the first week of bloom. We are finding 1-39 fleahoppers per 100 plants. The fields with higher numbers of fleahoppers tend to have more nymphs than adults.

Light populations of **aphids** are found scattered through most fields. These low populations can be beneficial as they are food for predator insects that will also attack other pest insects.

When cotton has 10 day old bolls, it is time to begin to monitor for stink bugs by cutting bolls and looking at the inner boll (carpal) wall for wart-like evidence of feeding. The treatment threshold is when boll feeding exceeds 20% evidence of feeding. We have yet to see **Verde Plant Bugs** (Creontiades). They should be scouted using the combination of visual observation, beat sheet and cut bolls.



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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