

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Current and Coming Research Projects

Field projects currently active include:

- Sorghum planting rate in Refugio and Calhoun Counties
- AflaGuard use in corn for reducing aflatoxin.
- Thrips control with foliar insecticides
- Cotton Fleahopper control with foliar insecticides
- 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

Grain Sorghum

The earlier fields of sorghum are heading and beginning bloom. Thus, it is time to start looking for sorghum midge on the field margins. The adult sorghum midge is a small (< 1/8 inch), orange-red fly with a yellow head, brown antennae and legs and gray, membranous wings.

Scout fields in the morning when the temperature warms to approximately 85° F. Because adult sorghum midges live less than 1 day, each day a new brood of adults emerges. Sampling must be done almost daily during the time sorghum grain heads are flowering.

Sorghum Midge per flowering head						
Economic Thresholds for Sorghum Midge for a range of factors						
Control Cost (\$/acre)	Crop Value (\$/cwt)	Flowering Heads per acre				
		20,000	45,000	60,000	75,000	
\$ 5	\$ 9	0.92	0.41	0.31	0.25	
\$ 5	\$ 10	0.83	0.37	0.28	0.22	
\$ 5	\$ 11	0.76	0.34	0.25	0.20	
\$ 6	\$ 9	1.11	0.49	0.37	0.30	
\$ 6	\$ 10	1.00	0.44	0.33	0.27	
\$ 6	\$ 11	0.91	0.40	0.30	0.24	
\$ 7	\$ 9	1.29	0.57	0.43	0.34	
\$ 7	\$ 10	1.16	0.52	0.39	0.31	
\$ 7	\$ 11	1.06	0.47	0.35	0.28	

Sorghum midge adults can be seen crawling on or flying about flowering sorghum grain heads. The simplest and most efficient way to detect and count sorghum midges is to inspect carefully and at close range all sides of randomly selected flowering grain heads.

Inspect plants along field borders first; particularly those downwind of earlier flowering sorghum or johnsongrass. If no, or few, sorghum midges are found on sorghum grain heads along field edges, there should

be little need to sample the entire field. If you find more than one sorghum midge per flowering grain head in border areas of a sorghum field, inspect the rest of the field. Sample at least 20 flowering grain heads for every 20 acres in a field. For fields smaller than 20 acres, sample 40 flowering grain heads.

Sorghum Headworm Calculator

We have added a calculator to the Entomology Website to calculate the economic threshold of sorghum headworms. We are hoping to add midge and stinkbugs to this calculator soon.

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

Cotton

Cotton fields range from 1-leaf to squaring. Young cotton with fewer than 5 true leaves should be monitored for thrips. I know of several fields without insecticide seed treatments. These fields should be scouted twice a week for thrips to prevent populations from reaching damaging levels. **Thrips should be controlled if their numbers exceed one per true leaf.** (i.e. cotton with 2 true leaves should be treated when thrips exceed 2 per plant)

Squaring cotton is susceptible to the cotton fleahopper. I would not treat fields in the first week of squaring. We have research that shows treating in the first week of squaring do not increase yields. Treatment should be considered after the plants have three fruiting sites when populations exceed 10-15 fleahoppers per 100 plants.

We continue to get good news from Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. The South Texas / Winter Garden zone has not captured any boll weevils this year.



Research Sprayer

Special thanks to WELFAB, INC of Port Lavaca for sand blasting and painting the trailer I use for transporting the research sprayer.

CROP TOURS

Refugio County	June 12	7:00 a.m.	Tivoli
		4:00 p.m.	Bonnieview
Victoria County	June 13	2:00 p.m.	Dacosta
Calhoun County	June 18	4:00 p.m.	Port Lavaca