

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

VOLUME 9

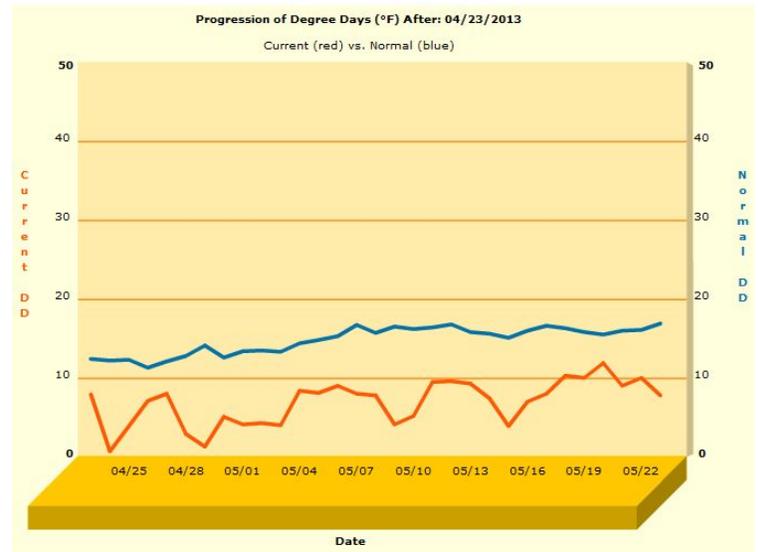
ISSUE 3

May 24, 2013

Current Conditions

So far this has been a fairly odd year with regard to temperatures. This table shows how temperatures of the past month compare with normal. Cooler and dryer weather conditions have resulted in slower than normal crop maturity, but have also limited the stress caused by poor soil moisture. (<https://cwp.tamu.edu>)

Cool conditions can also affect disease presence. Some diseases flourish in cooler temperatures while others prefer warmer temperatures.



Grain Sorghum

Sorghum fields range from 5-6 leaf to bloom. Scout fields each day in the morning when the temperature warms to approximately 85° F. As fields progress through bloom you will want to begin looking for stink bugs and headworms.

Scout for stink bugs and headworms using a bucket. Shake the heads in the bucket and knock them against the sides to dislodge insects on the head into the bucket. I usually sample two heads at a time and check 5 pairs before counting the insects on 10 heads. Check 5-10 spots per field.

Below are calculators for determining the economic thresholds for midge, headworms and stink bugs. It is important to determine the number of susceptible heads per acre in these calculations. Sorghum heads are susceptible to midge only when they are blooming. Heads that have developing seed are susceptible to yield losses from stink bugs and headworms.

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>

Corn

Some rust has been found in the Coastal Bend, but it is critical to identify the rust found. You do not need to treat for common rust but southern rust can be yield limiting. I have attached a fact sheet on rust in corn written by Dr. Tom Isakeit for your reference.

Cotton

Cotton fields range from 3-leaf to squaring. I expect to see a few fields blooming this week.

- Young cotton with fewer than 5 true leaves should be monitored for thrips.
- Squaring cotton is susceptible to the cotton fleahopper. I have found some cotton fields with fleahopper populations as high as 2-3 per plant.
- The fleahopper ET is 15 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 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

Looking for locations for the following trials:

- 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

Crop Tours

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