

## Mid-Coast IPM News

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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### *From Your Agent ~~*

Grain sorghum and corn harvesting is nearing completion and yields seem to be pretty good. I have heard of sorghum yields ranging from 4000-8000 lbs. / acre, and corn yields ranging from 80-170 bushels / acre. Soybean reports have not been quite as good but this is to be expected due to the rainfall patterns we had this year. Cotton is being defoliated and harvest should begin this next week. The only insects of major concern are stink bugs and thrips in soybeans.

Fall armyworms are being found in pastures. Economic threshold for fall armyworms is. Look at your pastures for fall armyworms and treat when more than 3 per square foot are found.

*SPB*

### **Soybeans**

Monitor later planted soybean fields for both stink bugs and bean thrips. Stink bugs are found in soybeans from 0-55 stink bugs per 100 sweeps.

Soybean fields are experiencing a color change on the leaves to orange/brown. While some of this is normal leaf senescence, bean thrips are responsible for the changes in a few fields. Several weeks ago, a field near Port Lavaca was defoliated prematurely by this thrips, but I have not seen thrips populations at the level that caused the defoliation (100-150 per trifoliate). Most of the affected fields have 5-10 immature thrips per leaf. While this indicates that the thrips are reproducing, these fields seem to be defoliating at a normal pace.

The crop has matured past a point that this disease would have an impact on yield. Treatment for rust is **not recommended**.

### **Cotton**

Dr. Robert Lemon suggests that we may have some high micronaire issues this year. Generally, two scenarios can lead to high micronaire problems – short fiber and/or ample food reserves to mature bolls. Unfortunately, both scenarios have occurred this season. When fiber is shortened, micronaire tends to increase because the same quantity of carbohydrates will be deposited over a shorter length allowing for thicker daily rings, resulting in coarser fiber. Similarly, micronaire also tends to increase when high levels of carbohydrates are available to feed bolls. When supply is greater than demand, the rings will be thicker, once again causing coarser fiber development. Most of the crop has a uniform boll set that shed young bolls in the upper portion of the plant as well as distal positions. With the resurgence of growth following the July rains, conditions favor an abundant supply of carbohydrates to feed bolls. Without the younger bolls to blend lower micronaire fiber and the potential for shorter staple, conditions will favor high micronaire development. However, one thing in our favor is that we're growing several varieties that genetically possess a lower micronaire characteristic and that should help the situation.

Some cotton fields have been taking on a purple-orange color over the past few weeks. This is what is called late season potassium deficiency/premature senescence syndrome. It's very apparent this season across the entire southern and eastern portion of the state. Three years ago it was very widespread as it is this season and the following conditions are similar for both years: very dry conditions during the boll filling period followed by extended periods of wet cloudy weather after cutout and plants with decent boll load (relatively speaking).



Symptoms are seen in the upper third of the canopy and are characterized initially as yellowing between the leaf veins followed by a rapid change in leaf tissue as it turns red/orange/bronze coloration. The affected leaves continue to deteriorate, eventually showing brown, necrotic lesions and leaf margins. Secondary foliar pathogens such as alternaria, cercospora and stemphyllium attack these debilitated plants and can result in premature senescence and defoliation.



The boll is the major sink for K (60% of total plant K is in the bolls) and late season the relatively non-functioning root system can't keep up with demand, hence the deficiency. You can always find plants in the field that do not have much of a boll load and they will appear unaffected. THIS IS NOT BRONZE WILT.

**Table 1.** Heat Unit accumulation in Calhoun, Refugio and Victoria Counties from selected dates through July 20.

	Calhoun	Refugio	Victoria
June 1 - July 20	1319	1266	1405
June 5 - July 20	1242	1193	1325
June 10 - July 20	1018	979	1089
June 15 - July 20	1129	1086	1207
June 20 - July 20	1020	984	1093
June 25 - July 20	907	879	972
July 1 – July 20	804	781	859
July 5 – July 20	670	656	712
July 10 – July 20	568	560	602
July 15 – July 28	444	437	469

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