

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

Stephen Biles
Extension Agent-IPM
186 CR 101
Port Lavaca, TX 77979

Office: 361-552-3324
Fax: 361-552-6727
E-mail: biles-sp@tamu.edu
Website: <http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu>

Vol. 1, No. 2

April 22, 2005

Crop Status

Soybeans

In the past few days, I have received a lot of questions about soybean rust. To summarize what I have been told by several plant pathologists from Texas A&M and from a seminar on Wednesday; to date, Asian soybean rust has not been found in Texas. Therefore, we have no need to spray any soybeans for Asian Soybean Rust at this time. The rust may become an issue once the soybean plants begin to bloom and Asian soybean rust has been found in sentential plots or fields in this region of Texas.

You should not be alarmed if soybeans in the Southeastern United States (Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana) are being sprayed with fungicides. This pathogen will most likely come to this area from Mexico or Central America. The rust has yet to be found in Mexico and Central America.

Cotton

Most of the cotton is up. The ground seemed to be ideal for seed germination and plant stands look to be good for the most part. I have seen fields as big as 4-6 leaf plants, meaning that the window for Round-Up applications to Round-Up Ready Cotton has past for some fields, and quickly approaching for others.

There have been reports of herbicide drift from spraying Round-Up and Ignite. It is important to remember the keys to reducing pesticide drift. Watch the wind speed and direction and keep the spray boom at the proper height.

To the south, some fields are being sprayed for **loopers**. Eggs have been found at about 7-10 per

100 plants. High natural mortality is expected due to the small plant size. Control may be needed if 10-20% of plants have loopers present. While I have seen loopers in some cotton fields, they have been at populations below 1 per 100 plants.

The first ratings of the cotton seed treatment trial found that both Gaucho Grande and Cruiser were controlling **thrips** and **aphids**. The untreated plants averaged 1.05 thrips per plant and 2.0 aphids per plant while treated plants had virtually no pest insects.

The numbers of thrips per plant to use as a treatment level increases as plants add more leaves. **Control may be justified when the average number of thrips counted per plant is equal to the number of true leaves present at the time of inspection.** One thrips per plant should be used as the treatment level from plant emergence through the cotyledon stage to the first true leaf. Inspections should begin once cotton has reached approximately 50 percent stand. emergence. Insecticidal control is rarely justified once plants reach the 5- to 7-true-leaf stage, or when plants begin to square.

If you have aphids that seem to be drawing the plants down check the field again in 48 hours to determine if the population is increasing or decreasing. If the population is increasing treatment may be justified. Although high populations can develop prior to bloom, most economically damaging infestations develop later in the season during the blooming period. As beneficial insects increase in abundance, aphids will become less of an issue.

Small red mites are also being found on cotton plants. As far as I can determine, these mites have no economic impact and should not be sprayed for control.