

## MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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# CROP STATUS

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## Soybeans

Soybean maturity ranges from first trifoliolate (V1) to bloom (R1). The insect pests that I have seen in soybeans thus far include **leaf feeding caterpillars** and **three-cornered alfalfa hoppers**. Yellow-striped armyworms, corn earworms and loopers ( $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  inch) are being found at up to 12 per 100 sweeps.

Various caterpillars (including armyworms and beet armyworms), beetles and grasshoppers feed on soybean foliage. Because all cause defoliation, they are grouped together for damage estimation purposes. These pests can occur throughout the year, but are most significant from blooming to pod fill when defoliation can cause yield reductions. Infestations may develop very rapidly and completely defoliate soybean fields. Controlling these pests is complicated when several species are involved. Insecticide applied early in the season may cause resurgent populations, making it necessary to treat again.

## Stink Bug IPM in Soybeans

I will be sampling soybean fields for stink bugs as part of several projects. These projects are to evaluate stink bug economic

thresholds and treatment timings and survey stink bug species complex. I have not yet seen stink bugs in soybean fields. If you find stinkbugs in your soybean fields, I would like to see to field. Please call me at 920-1138.

## Cotton

Cotton ranges from 2 true-leaves to early squaring. Thrips, aphids, loopers and yellow striped armyworms continue to be found in most fields. In the Corpus Christi area, Dr. Parker has been finding very high numbers of thrips on squaring cotton plants. We need to watch fields closely to prevent damaging populations. Cotton treated by seed treatments for early season control should maintain control for 28 days after planting. Many cotton fields were planted more than 28 days ago and the level of control from seed treatments will be declining.

I found an egg mass of beet armyworms in a cotton field. While this is only one beet armyworm hit, if temperatures remain cool, beet armyworms may become a problem.

The good news is that beneficial insect populations are climbing. As you scout fields for insect pests, monitor beneficial populations as well. They may help you with your pest control options.

## A Note From Stephen . . .

We need rain and warmer temperatures to help continue development of the crops. The cooler temperatures, especially night temps. which have been in the mid to lower 50s, are slowing the progression of the crops. Some cotton fields are more than 30 days old and are either just squaring or are still not squaring. This slow growth will leave the crops susceptible to both insect and disease problems.

Some corn fields are beginning to tassel. These fields will need a rain soon to maintain higher yield potential. While I have not seen any fields suffering from lack of water, the fields are not yet requiring large amounts of water. But soon after the crops tassel, square or bloom, and begin their reproductive phases, water requirements increase drastically.

SPB

Please feel free to call Stephen any time with questions or concerns. He will be happy to assist you.

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## 2005 Insect Checklist

The following insects have been found in fields:

### Cotton

- Loopers
- Thrips
- Aphids
- Yellow Striped Armyworms
- Beet Armyworms
- Whiteflies

### Soybeans

- Loopers
- Thrips
- Aphids
- Yellow Stripped Armyworms
- Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers
- Corn Earworms
- Banded Cucumber Beetle

### Corn

- Chinch bugs
- Aphids
- Loopers
- Corn Earworms
- Mexican Corn Rootworms
- Southern Corn Rootworms

### Sorghum

- Yellow Sugarcane Aphids

### Beneficials

- Minute Pirate Bugs
- Aphid Parasitoids
- Ladybeetles (Scymnus, Convergent, Seven-Spotted)
- Syrphid Flies