

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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CROP STATUS

Cotton

Many area cotton fields are now squaring. These fields should be monitored closely for Cotton Fleahoppers. Cotton fleahoppers commonly exceed economic thresholds in most years. However, the timing of insecticide applications to control these insect pests must be made based on field scouting. Applications made early or late may have little or no impact on the pest population.

Automatic applications for fleahopper control are discouraged. Dr. Parker has conducted studies examining the timing of insecticide applications for fleahopper control. In these tests he found that insecticide applications made when pest numbers were below economic thresholds did not provide an economic return on investment.

I received an alert from Manda Cattaneo, Extension Agent – IPM in Weslaco, concerning **Beet Armyworms**. Farmers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are seeing more of this pest than normal for this time of year. I have also seen beetle armyworms in area fields at low levels. These populations have been found on or adjacent to pigweed plants. Pigweed species are a favorite host for beetle armyworms. Control of this weed may reduce the occurrence of beetles in your cotton fields.

Soybeans

Some soybean fields are beginning to make pods (R2). Loopers are the most common insect pest I have seen this week (20 per 100 sweeps). I am also finding stinkbugs along roadsides. Field scouting for stinkbugs should begin once soybeans begin to form pods.

The southern green stink bug and brown stink bug are the most common species along the Gulf Coast of Texas, although occasionally other species such as the green stink bug are found. Adult stink bugs usually move into fields when soybeans begin to flower. Both adults and nymphs feed by inserting their mouthparts into the beans inside the pods. They also feed on stems, foliage and blooms. Pod feeding may reduce yield and quality of the soybeans, delay maturity (green bean effect), and increase the incidence of yeast spot seedling disease. Large numbers of nymphs can develop during the pod filling period. Because adult females deposit eggs in clusters, nymphs are extremely aggregated.

Sweeping with a sweep net is the recommended sampling method for mid to late season soybean pests. A standard 15-inch-diameter sweep net is often used for sampling insects on soybeans. Make ten consecutive sweeps while walking through the field, swinging the net from side to side across the row with each step. Then identify and count insects as they are removed from the net. Repeat the sampling procedure in at least ten random sites and total the counts of each species per ten sweeps to determine the number of insects per 100 sweeps. Increasing the number of samples taken from a field increases the accuracy of the population estimates. If the population estimates are close to threshold levels, or if the field is large, sample more areas to increase the accuracy of the results. Treatment fields when populations exceed 36 stinkbugs per 100 sweeps.

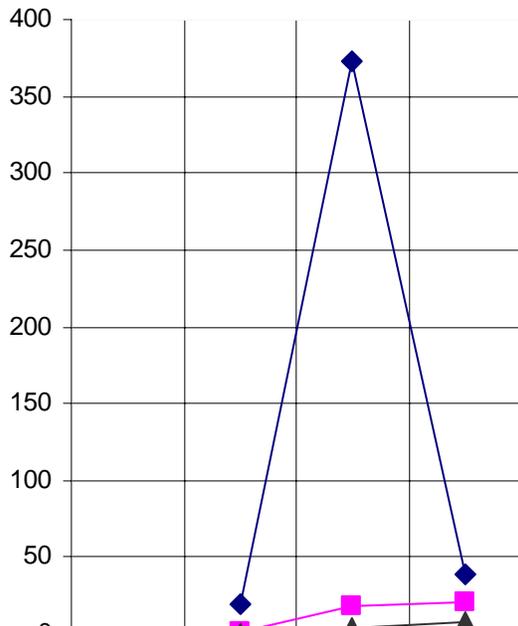
From the Agent . . .

While we received some much needed rain across the area last Sunday, much of Calhoun County received less than ½ inch, and more rainfall continues to be on the needs list. Temperatures have climbed into the 80's with lows in the 60's. This is much more conducive to the good plant growth needed to out grow early season pests such as thrips.

Herbicide drift was discussed at the Victoria County Weed Control Meeting. This seems to be more of a problem this year than in previous years. All applicators should be very careful to monitor wind speed and direction while making pesticide applications. Crops that are not tolerant to the herbicide you are applying may be severely injured or killed. For example, grain sorghum and corn are very sensitive to Glyphosate applications. And crops that are not Liberty Link, are very sensitive to Ignite. Applications of 2,4-D can drift very long distances due to volatilization.

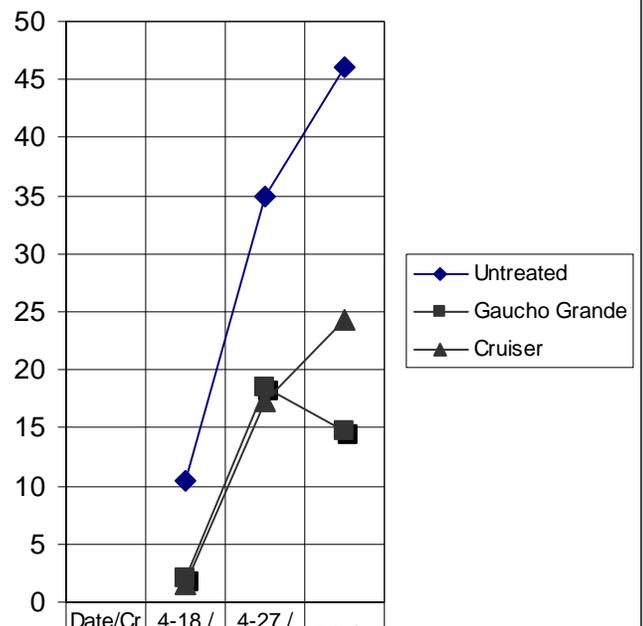
SPB

Number of Aphids per 10 plants



◆ Untreated	20	372.3	38.5
■ Gaucho Grande	0.8	17.8	21.3
▲ Cruiser	0.5	4.3	7.5

Number of Thrips per 10 Plants



◆ Untreated	10.5	35	46
■ Gaucho Grande	2	18.5	14.8
▲ Cruiser	1.5	17.3	24.3