

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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Crop Status

Cotton

Most of the cotton has been blooming for a week or two. Fruit retention continues to be high; greater than 83%. And most fields have 8-9 nodes above white flower.

The primary pest insects to cotton after bloom are cotton bollworms and tobacco budworms, stinkbugs and aphids. All of these have been found in local cotton fields. We found a treatable population of bollworms in a field of non-Bt cotton. However, this portion of the field was the 5% refuge and should not be treated for bollworm control. Several fields have aphid populations above 50 aphids per leaf. These fields should be checked again 48 hours after the high levels are noticed to determine population growth. Aphids can reduce yields if over 50 aphids per leaf for 2-3 weeks or over 100 aphids per week for one week.

An occasional pest of cotton was also found in this field. Damaged squares by cotton square borers appears to be identical to bollworm or tobacco budworm, except that the hole left by the borer is perfectly round and the borer leaves no frass (excrement) in or around the damaged square. The adult of the cotton square borer is a butterfly as opposed to the adults of bollworm and tobacco

budworms which are moths. The square borer butterfly is a small (about 1.25 to 1.5 inch wing span), grey colored butterfly with small red spots on the wings. Square borers usually are less noticeable in cotton fields once the really hot months of June through August come around. While square borers may be alarming, they are not typically economic and should not be treated with insecticides



**Cotton Square
Borer Larvae**



**Cotton Square
Borer Adult**



**Cotton Square
Borer Larvae**

Soybeans

The risk level for Asian Soybean Rust is practically non-existent. Treatment for rust is not recommended. Soybeans are in maturity stages from R2 to R5. Stinkbugs are being found in generally low numbers. Most stinkbugs captured in sweep nets are adults. The next generation of these populations will be here soon, so keep a close eye on all soybeans.

I have not yet seen the problems of flat pods encountered last season. If you notice symptoms of abnormal pod development, please give me a call and keep all records regarding pest populations (especially stink bugs).

We noticed a different stink bug this week. I originally thought that this stink bug was a predator but identification by Ed Riley at Texas A&M corrected me. *Edessa bifida* (Say) (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) - not a predator, but rather a specialist that feeds on morning glories (Convolvulaceae). It's important to note that this stink bug is both brown and green in color, and is not of economic importance.



Edessa Bifida

Sorghum

Continue to monitor for midge. Populations have been variable between 0 and 1.3 per head.

From the Agent~

Field crops seem to be doing well. Soil moisture is good for most of the area. One farmer suggested that the cotton would like a little dry weather. Maybe I was in West Texas for too long, but I still like to see rain any time I can get it.

SPB

Victoria and Refugio Counties Crop Tours are this week:

15 June 2005
 Refugio County Crop Tour
 Canales Café, Tivoli
 Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.

16 June 2005
 Victoria County Crop Tour
 Sons of Herman Hall - Dacosta
 Registration begins at 1:00 p.m.

Next Week . . .

Tuesday Morning,

June 21, 2005
 TAM-CC Research and Extension Center
 Field Day
 To register call Stephanie at
 (361)-265-9203.

Tuesday Afternoon

21 June 2005
 Calhoun County Crop Tour
 Bauer Exhibit Building
 Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.