

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

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Grain Sorghum

Sorghum maturity ranges from bloom to soft dough stage. We continue to watch fields for the **sugarcane aphid** but our attention is turning toward **Stink bugs and headworms**.



Rice Stink Bug Egg Mass and Adult

I produced a short video last year demonstrating how to check sorghum for stink bugs and headworms. This video can be found on the right side of the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension Website: <http://calhoun.agrilife.org/>.

When we scout sorghum after bloom, we check 5-10 places in each field and take 3-5 samples with a beat bucket. Each sample will be 10 heads. This allows you to determine the number of insects per head. Continue to monitor stink bugs and headworms until hard dough.

Sugarcane aphid populations have declined in many fields due in part to the high numbers of predator insects. Keep an eye on the aphids, especially if you have to treat for stink bugs or headworms. A pyrethroid insecticide has the potential to reduce the number of beneficial insects and increase the reproductive rate of aphids.

Cotton

Cotton fields are in early to mid-bloom and have 6-9 nodes above white flower. We are looking for Verde Plant Bugs and Stink Bugs in cotton fields. Scout for Verde plant bugs with a beat bucket or drop cloth. Using a 5-gallon bucket, beat one plant around in the bucket 5-7 times and check what insects are dislodged into the bucket. Treat for Verde plant bugs when populations exceed 15 bugs per 100 plants.

Once a field has bolls which are 1-inch in diameter, inspect 20, one-inch bolls from 5 spots per field. Open the boll by pressing on the sides and inspect the inside for evidence of feeding. Treat the field when more than 20% of 1-inch bolls have evidence of internal feeding.

Decision aid for stink bug thresholds in cotton

- 1 Pull random sample of quarter size diameter bolls, avoid field edges. (boll sizes between 0.9" and 1.1")
- 2 1 boll / acre, no less than 25 / field.
- 3 Sort bolls into two piles: those with and those without, obvious external lesions.
- 4 Crack and inspect bolls with external lesions for internal damage (boll wall warts, stained seed or lint).
- 5 If threshold is not met for that week, (see chart) check the remaining bolls for internal damage.
- 6 Treat field only if the threshold is met for that week.

Bolls should fit through the large hole but NOT the small one.

Week of bloom	Threshold (% internal boll damage)
1	50%
2	30%
3	10%
4	10%*
5	10%*
6	20%
7	30%
8	50%

*Consult state guidelines for scouting intervals.

Decision aid for stink bug thresholds in cotton

Stained seed and lint

Boll wall warts

External lesions

Quarter size boll

Boll diameter should be between 0.9" and 1.1"

Cotton logo

Soybeans

Stink bugs will be the primary insect pest in soybeans until maturity. We are finding all of the important species of stink bugs in area fields. Some of these fields have exceeded threshold in the past week, requiring treatment. Treat stink bugs when numbers exceed 36/100 sweeps, or 24/100 sweeps for Red-Banded Stink bugs.



Red-Banded Stink Bug



Green Stink Bug



Red Shouldered Stink Bug

Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

Woodsboro Farmer's Cooperative	South Texas Cotton and Grain Association
Moreman Coop	Helena Chemical
Hlavinka Equipment	Welfab
Numerous Producers	

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