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# PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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## Cotton Stalk Destruction

One of the most important components of boll weevil eradication is cotton stalk destruction. I have conducted several trials in the past few years and the best method to keep cotton stalks from becoming hostable to the boll weevil is to include 2,4-D in your management of the stalks.

Whether you leave them standing, shred, pull or plow them, spray cotton fields with a quart of 2,4-D after harvest. The timing of the application is not important, they can be sprayed immediately after shredding or harvest, or the herbicide application can wait a few days, just get it done. The application should prevent square formation for at least 60 days.

## Fall Armyworms in Pastures

Pastures and hay fields should be checked for fall armyworms now. We found a significant infestation near Port Lavaca this week and intend on conducting an insecticide trial Monday. Last year we sprayed an insecticide test near Bonnieview. The results are below.

It is important to note the field received 2.5 inches of rain one day after treatment which partially explains the poor residual control of the pyrethroid application of Baythroid which was reinfested from untreated grass around the plots.



**Table 1.** Number of fall armyworms per five sweeps at 1, 2, 3, 7 and 14 days after application. (Refugio County, TX, 2014).

		Fall Armyworms (# / 5 Sweeps)				
		10/1/2013	10/2/2013	10/3/2013	10/7/2013	10/14/2013
		1 DA-A	2 DA-A	3 DA-A	7 DA-A	14 DA-A
1	Belt 2 oz/a	95.3 a	50.5 b	18.2 b	1.2 bc	0.3 a
2	Belt 3 oz/a	198.7 a	62.8 b	30.7 ab	1.9 b	0 a
3	Prevathon 14 oz/a	116.2 a	18.5 c	5.4 c	0.2 c	0.5 a
4	Baythroid XL 2.8 oz/a	14.0 b	33.5 bc	63.9 a	16.5 a	0.3 a
5	Untreated Check	125.5 a	120.8 a	73.4 a	21.8 a	0 a
LSD (P=.05)		0.35	31.44	0.43t	0.33t	0.64
Standard Deviation		0.19t	20.4	0.28t	0.22t	0.42
CV		9.64	35.67	19.18	30.84	209.17
Treatment Prob(F)		0.0006	0.0001	0.001	0.0001	0.4449

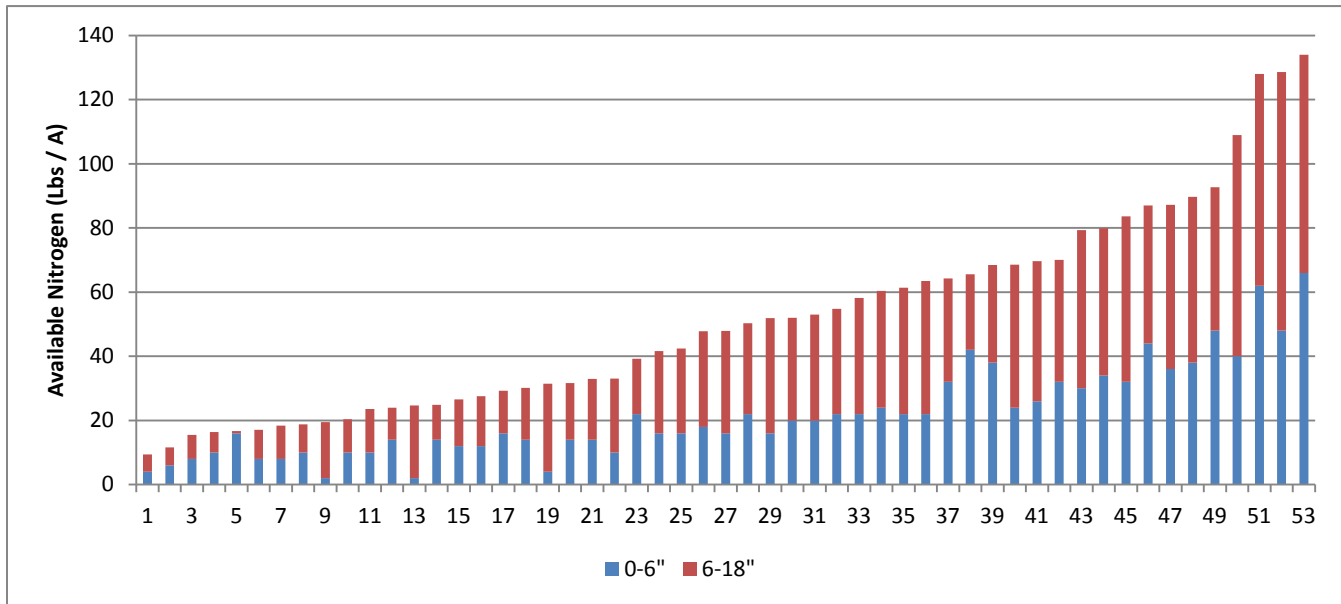
Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, LSD)

## Soil Testing

The best method for determining proper fertilization of a crop is by soil testing. Research conducted in the past 10 years has shown soil nitrogen can be sampled at depths of up to 24" and used to credit against the nitrogen fertilizer needs.

Last year, the IPM Soil testing program conducted soil tests on 53 Calhoun County fields and found soil nitrogen levels ranged between 0 and 134 pounds of available nitrogen in the upper 18 inches of soil. The potential savings in fertilizer cost ranged from \$4.24 – \$60.30.

More information will be coming on the IPM soil testing program in the next few weeks. Contact me if interested in hearing more. 361-920-1138



### Support for the 2014 IPM Program comes from the following:

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