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PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

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Text “Follow @Midcoastipm” to the number **40404**

The best thing that could happen to our crops right now is a 1-2 inch rain. I have noticed fields of corn with leaves beginning to roll from lack of soil moisture. Weed control is the best thing we can do to help the crop to manage soil moisture.

Grain Sorghum

Thus far, I have not seen aphids on sorghum in Calhoun, Victoria or Refugio Counties, but I have seen them on johnsongrass in the area.

The aphids to be concerned with in sorghum are **Yellow Sugarcane Aphid** and **Sugarcane Aphid**.

TDA received notice this week that a Section 18 for sugarcane aphid control with Transform WG insecticide has been approved by EPA. The section 18 Emergency Exemption Label is attached to this newsletter.

Use of Transform in sorghum is limited to control of sugarcane aphid at application rates of 0.75-1.5 oz/A. No more than 2 applications can be made per year with a minimum treatment interval of 14 days. Do not apply within 7 days of harvest for forage, and 14 days for grain or stover.

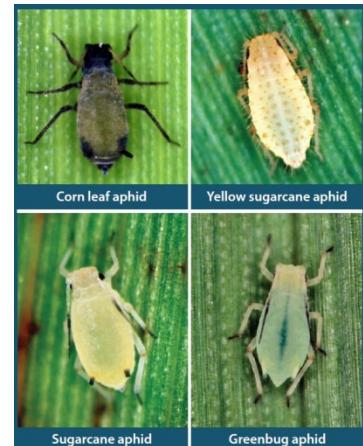


Figure 2. Aphid species that affect grain sorghum. All aphids reared by Scott Armstrong, USDA-ARS Lab Stillwater, OK, and photographed by Rick Grantham, Oklahoma State University Insect Diagnostic Lab, Stillwater.

False Chinch Bugs

It is common for me to receive picture of insects in a text message. I was contacted with a video about a sorghum field in Matagorda County that had high numbers of **False Chinch Bugs**. Then, I was sent a picture of a **False Chinch Bug** found in a cotton field. These bugs were in real high numbers in part of the sorghum field and a cause for concern, but only one was found in the cotton field.



The false chinch bug resembles the chinch bug but with more uniform color, ranging from gray to brown. False chinch bugs are 1/10 inch long. Large numbers of false chinch bugs occasionally migrate from wild hosts, such as wild mustard, to sorghum, but these insects usually concentrate in small areas of a field.



False Chinch Bug Photo
Courtesy of Dr. Pat Porter

Currently we have no published management guidelines for false chinch bugs. When found, they are usually in swarms in small parts of a field and insecticide treatment is hard to justify unless they cover a considerable part of the field or are in several places across the field. Typically they will stay in the sorghum field for only a few days, until they find a more suitable host. If treatment is desired, pyrethroid insecticides should provide adequate control.



Cold Injury

Many fields of cotton and sorghum have symptoms of cold injury from the cold temperatures a few weeks back when temperatures reached 36-39°F. I expect the crops will grow out of the injury but there is potential for this to have some impact on cotton yield, as it will slow the growth of the seedlings.

Cotton

I am seeing cotton that was planted in late March and early April having only 1-2 true leaves. The delay in the crop is due to cold weather earlier last week, so continue to monitor cotton fields for thrips and aphids.

I have seen and received reports of mites in cotton, but the numbers have not been concerning. If the dry weather continues, the mites may become more of an issue.

Cotton Marketing Newsletter

Dr. Robinson's cotton market newsletter is available by clicking on the following:

<http://agrilife.org/cottonmarketing/>

Field Research

If you have a topic that needs my attention, call me at 361-920-1138. We currently have 4 cotton trials and 6 sorghum trials planted on topics ranging from seed treatment insect control in cotton and sorghum, sugarcane aphid control, and seeding rate in sorghum.

IPM Newsletter

Text “Follow @Midcoastipm” to the number **40404** to receive notices of IPM Pest Management News on your mobile phone.

I plan on posting texts only when new IPM Newsletters are published. Thus, you will only get one text a week during the growing season. This will also link to a mobile friendly version of the newsletter.

Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter via email can contact me at biles-sp@tamu.edu.

Forward this newsletter as desired.

<http://calhoun.agrilife.org/newsletters/ipm-newsletter/>

Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

Woodsboro Farmer's Cooperative
Moreman Coop
Hlavinka Equipment
Numerous Producers

South Texas Cotton and Grain Association
Helena Chemical
Welfab





Dow AgroSciences

Dow AgroSciences LLC

9330 Zionsville Road

Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054 USA

Transform[®] WG

EPA Reg. No. 62719-625

For Control of Sugarcane Aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*) in Sorghum

Section 18 Emergency Exemption

File symbol: 14TX02

FOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE ONLY IN TEXAS UNDER SECTION 18 EMERGENCY EXEMPTION
This Section 18 Emergency Exemption is effective April 24, 2014 and expires October 31, 2014

- This labeling must be in the possession of the user at the time of application.
- It is in violation of federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.
- All application directions, restrictions, and precautions on the registered product label for Transform WG (EPA Reg. No. 62719-625) are to be followed.
- Any adverse effects resulting from the use of Transform WG under this emergency exemption must be immediately reported to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Directions for Use

Pests and Application Rates:

Pests	Transform WG (oz/acre)	Comments
Sugarcane aphid	0.75 – 1.5 (0.023 – 0.047 lb ai/acre)	Use a higher rate in the rate range for heavy pest populations.

Application Timing: Treat in accordance with local economic thresholds. Consult your Dow AgroSciences representative, cooperative extension service, certified crop advisor or state agricultural experiment station for any additional local use recommendations for your area.

Restrictions:

- **Preharvest Interval:** Do not apply within 7 days of harvest for forage, and 14 days for grain or stover.
- A restricted entry interval (REI) of 24 hours must be observed.
- Do not make more than two applications per acre per year.
- **Minimum Treatment Interval:** Do not make applications less than 14 days apart.
- Do not apply more than a total of 3.0 oz of Transform WG (0.09 lb ai of sulfoxaflor) per acre per year.

Environmental Hazards

This product is highly toxic to bees exposed through contact during spraying and while spray droplets are still wet. This product may be toxic to bees exposed to treated foliage for up to 3 hours following application. Toxicity is reduced when spray droplets are dry.

Risk to managed bees and native pollinators from contact with pesticide spray or residues can be minimized when applications are made before 7:00 am or after 7:00 pm local time or when the temperature is below 55 degrees F at the site of application.

Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment washwaters.

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