

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

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Text “**Follow @Midcoastipm**” to the number **40404** to receive newsletter via text message.

Rain fell this past weekend across most of the area but totals ranged from 0.1 to 2” with most of the cropland getting less than ½ inch.

Corn

Corn is beginning to tassel with plant heights as short as 4 feet. Fall Armyworms are found in some fields. Treating these worms can be difficult with contact insecticides since the armyworms tend to stay inside the plant. Systemic insecticides such as Prevathon, Besiege or Belt may be better choices but will also cost more than the pyrethroids.

Grain Sorghum

The earliest planted sorghum fields are beginning to head but most fields are still a few weeks from heading. We continue to find corn leaf aphids and yellow sugarcane aphids in sorghum fields, but I have not yet found sugarcane aphids in grower fields. Beneficial insects such as lady beetles, syrphid fly larvae and green lacewing larvae are beginning to find these aphids and reduce their numbers.

Cotton

Some cotton fields are beginning to square. We have begun to find cotton fleahopper in many fields but none of the fields I am looking at are at a growth stage where fleahopper control is needed.

The economic threshold for cotton fleahopper is when populations exceed 15 fleahoppers per 100 on cotton with more than 3 fruiting sites.



Cotton Fleahopper

I do not suggest controlling fleahoppers until the plants in the field have more than 3 squares or fruiting sites per plant. Research has shown that no yield loss occurs when the first three squares are removed from the plant. The cotton plant has a great ability to compensate for early fruit loss. This compensation is due to the plant producing more than 50 squares during the growing season. A successful three-bale cotton crop with 3 plants per foot will have 12-15 bolls per plant.



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

To receive this newsletter via Text Message, text “**Follow @Midcoastipm**” to the number **40404**.

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/>

http://www.tpma.org/newsletters/coastal_middle/TOC.htm

Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

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