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# PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

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## Current Conditions

Sorghum harvest has begun so the desire to see rain fall on fields is becoming mixed. While rainfall will slow grain harvest, rain is needed on cotton and soybean fields. Temperatures remain near or just below normal. <https://cwp.tamu.edu/>

## Field Meetings

Topics of discussion will include:

- Insecticide trial results
- Pest management strategies

**Calhoun County** - Tuesday, July 2 at 9:00 a.m., FM 1679 and Sweetwater Rd. in cotton field at north.

**Refugio County** - Wednesday, July, 3 at 9:00 a.m., Levein Rd., north of Boenig Rd.

## Grain Sorghum

Sorghum maturity ranges from bloom to harvest.

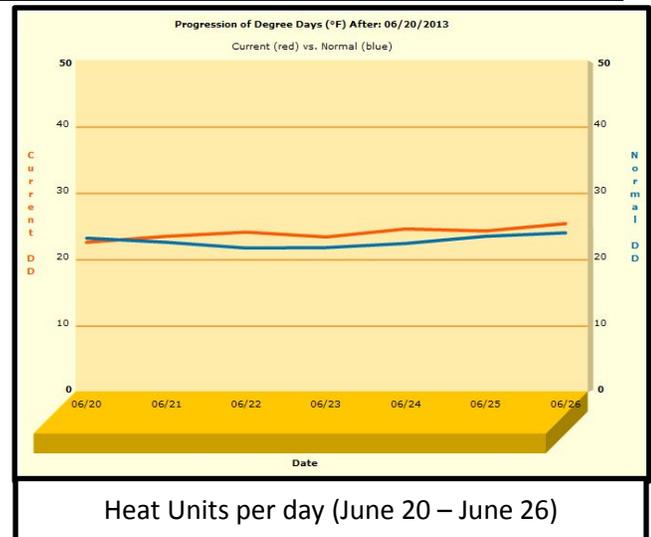
The use of **glyphosate prior harvest aid** may speed the time to harvest. Glyphosate can be used after the grain has reached black layer and is below 30% moisture. Application before 30% moisture is off label and can reduce yield.

- Late blooming sorghum can have high sorghum midge populations so watch these fields closely. Check them every other morning between 8:30 and 11.
- Monitor for **stink bugs** and **headworms** until hard dough.
- Rice stink bugs and headworm are currently in sorghum fields but not necessarily at treatable levels.
- Economic threshold calculators on the internet here: <https://insects.tamu.edu/extension/apps/>

## Cotton

Cotton fields range from early bloom to cut out or <5 Nodes above white flower (NAWF). Record the date your cotton fields reach 5 NAWF.

- Look for evidence of **stink bug and Verde plant bug** feeding in cotton 10 days after first bloom using an economic threshold of 20% bolls with evidence of feeding.
- Stink bugs do not cause economic damage after 450 Heat Units have accumulated after cut out.
- We accumulated 23 HU per day last week so cotton should be "safe" 20 days after cutout.



## Soybeans

Soybean fields range from Mid-bloom to pod fill.

- Scout fields for stink bugs with either a drop cloth or sweep net.
- Treat when they exceed 36 stink bugs per 100 sweeps or 1 per foot of row with drop cloth.
- Reduce the threshold to 24 per 100 sweeps or 2 per 3 feet if red-banded stink bug is a majority of species found.

## 2,4-D and Cotton

I have notice a number of fields with 2,4-D damage over the past week as is shown in the top picture on the right. From what I could tell, all of this was self-inflicted damage due to 2,4-D coming out of the hoses of sprayers.

Quite often damage occurs on the first pass after the sprayer has been sitting for a while. There are several herbicides such as glyphosate and liberty that may have a greater tendency to pull 2,4-D out of sprayer hoses. Use caution when using these herbicides.

The lower picture to the right show total yield loss from 2,4-D in the sprayer lines applied to squaring cotton in 2012.

## Cotton Yield Potential

We know we lose a lot of yield for various reasons but the yield potential of cotton is much higher than you may think.

Cotton plants in the Coastal Bend of Texas average 23 nodes per plant and have the first fruiting branch at the 6<sup>th</sup> node resulting in 17 fruiting branches. These fruiting branches will average 3 fruiting sites per branch. If no fruit were lost, a field with a plant population was three plants per foot, would have 153 bolls per foot. Assuming 12 bolls per foot on 38 inch rows equals one bale of cotton per acre; this hypothetical crop would yield 12.75 bales or over 6,000 lbs lint per acre.

## Research Projects

Current field projects include:

- Sorghum planting rate in Refugio and Calhoun Counties
- AflaGuard use in corn for reducing aflatoxin in Refugio County
- Thrips control with foliar insecticides in Victoria County
- Fungicide use in grain sorghum in Victoria County
- Cotton Fleahopper control with foliar insecticides in Calhoun County
- Treating Bt cotton with insecticides for worm control Calhoun County
- Evaluation of stink bug thresholds on stink bugs and Verde Plant Bug Calhoun County
- Stink Bug control with foliar insecticides Victoria County

Looking for locations for the following trials:

- Stink bug and/or headworm control in Sorghum (Still needed!)
- Fall armyworm control in bermudagrass pastures

I am interested in conducting research to solve pest management issues on your farm. Call me if you have something I should look into. 361-920-1138

## Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

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