

# Integrated Pest Management

## Calhoun, Victoria And Refugio Counties

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### Planting conditions

As fields dry from recent rains most planters will be running in the fields. However, while the field may finally be dry enough to plant, what if the soil is still too cold?

Waiting for proper soil temperature to plant can be the difference between a good plant stand and a skippy plant stand. **Current Soil Temperature readings can be found on the internet at <http://cwp.tamu.edu/>.**

The first critical stage in growing Corn is stand emergence. Soil temperature should be >50°F at the 2-3 inch soil depth in the early morning hours.

The minimum soil temperature at the 2-3 inch soil depth for germination and emergence of Sorghum is about 55°F. Thus, you should wait until soil temperatures are above 55°F to plant sorghum.

Soils should be above 50°F for Soybeans to properly emerge. For Cotton, wait until the soil temperature is above 60°F and warm weather is in the 10 day forecast.

### Crop Fertility

Many fields have not yet been fertilized. We all know that fertilizers should be applied as soon as possible. However, the importance of this is sometimes understated.

Late applications of fertilizer to cotton, occurring after 1/3 grown square, may restrict the yields due to root pruning. Yield reduction can occur even if the fertilizer is placed with a coulter rig in the middle of the row since the roots are across the middle of the row by squaring.

In soybeans, the roots are completely across a 30 inch row by the 5th trifoliolate (or V5). Many of the roots are in the top 6 inches of the soil.



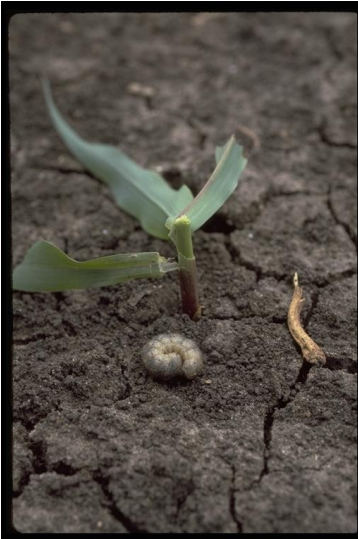
## Early Season Weed Control

Weed control is critical for the first 60 days of crop production. Although it is easy to get the idea that waiting until the “next flush” of weeds is up before herbicide applications, this may not be the best management practice. With soil moisture not an immediate concern, fertility is the second greatest limiting factor in crop production. The weeds that are in the field now are robbing your crop of nutrients needed for optimal yields.

Weeds are also the source of insect problems you will encounter later in the growing season. Getting the weeds out of the field can be one of the more effective insect management tools you can use.

## Insects in the Crops

What will the first pest insects in the field? This year I would keep an eye out for Cutworms in all emerging crops. This is especially true for fields that currently have live weeds. These weeds serve as an early host for pests like cutworms.



Cutworms are dingy, grayish-black, smooth “worms” that are the larval stages of several different moths.

Cutworms are active at night and damage seedling corn by cutting the stalk just above ground level. Large numbers of cutworms may be found in grassy or weedy areas. Most cutworm species hide in the soil during the day and are not visible on the plants.

When cutworms are damaging plant stands, an application of insecticide by air or ground usually will give adequate control. Best results are obtained when insecticides are applied in the late afternoon. If the soil is dry, cloddy or crusty at the time of treatment, control may not be as effective as in moist soil.

### Suggested Insecticides for Controlling Cutworms

Insecticides (alphabetically)	Amount per acre	Days from last application to:	
		Harvest	Grazing
Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban® 4E)	1-2 pt.	35	14
Esfenvalerate (Asana® XL 0.66E)	5.8-9.6 oz.	21	21
Permethrin (Ambush® 2E)	6.4-12.8 oz.	30	30
(Pounce® 3.2EC)	4.0-8.0 oz.	30	no
(Pounce® 1.5G)	6.7-13.3 lb.	30	no
Lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior® CS)	1.92-3.20 oz.	21	See label