

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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In years like this it is even more critical to scout your crops or have a consultant scout the crops. Frequent scouting is the only way to find out when, and if, a field should be treated with an insecticide. Timely applications of insecticides will determine the ability to reduce losses as well as using the correct rate and application methods. With many insecticides, coverage is critical. It can pay to increase the spray volume in order to get better coverage.

**Cotton**

Cotton fields range from 2-3 leaf to mid bloom. Fields of blooming cotton have 6-8 nodes above white flower (NAWF). With cutout being at 5 NAWF, the blooming period will likely be shorter than normal. Fields with squaring cotton have **cotton fleahopper** populations ranging from 0-50 per 100 plants. Treat if a field has more than 15-25 fleahoppers per 100 plants.

Some fields have **aphid** populations in that are building or have reached damaging levels. To scout for aphids pick 10 leaves from each of the top middle and lower portions of the canopy and actually count the number of aphids. Many lady beetles are also in these fields including the Scymnus lady beetle and some of the aphids are being parasitized by wasps. If the aphid population is close to threshold and lady beetles or aphid mummies are present, wait 2 days and then scout the field again before applying insecticide. The economic threshold for aphids in cotton is when the average number of aphids exceeds 50 aphids per leaf.



**Scymnus lady beetle larve**

**Aphid Mummy**



*parasitized aphid.*

**Soybeans**

Soybean maturity ranges from first trifoliolate (V1) to pod fill (R6). Adult and nymph stink bugs are in fields in relatively low numbers (0-10 per 100 sweeps). I have found all different kinds of stink bugs in fields including red-banded, brown, green and southern green stink bugs. There does not appear to be a dominant species being found. The economic threshold for all stink bugs is 36/100 sweeps.

Some fields of soybeans are yellowing. While the oldest fields may be beginning to leaf senescence, younger fields may be experiencing iron or zinc deficiency.

Although soil samples may indicate adequate amounts of these elements, high pH soils may cause them to be unavailable to the plant. Suggestions for cure involve foliar applications. Beware of micro mixes high in copper which may cause copper toxicity. The economics of the application may be unfeasible.



### Grain Sorghum

I have not found midge in grain sorghum. Continue to scout fields daily through the bloom period. Odds are in favor of the later sorghum having problems with midge.

### Crop Tours Coming Up

#### Refugio County

June 14, 2006

7:30 a.m. will begin at Canales Restaurant

4:00 p.m. will begin at Bonnie View Park

#### Victoria County

June 15, 2006

1:30 p.m. will begin at DaCosta Hall

#### Calhoun County

June 20, 2006

4:00 p.m. will begin at the Bauer Exhibit Building in Port Lavaca

*Some supporters of YOUR IPM Program are:*

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