

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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Cotton

I have been surprised thus far that we have not seen the fruit shed common to periods of cloudy weather such as we had last week. Small squares are blasted in some cotton that are in the first week of bloom. I have yet to see the expected shedding of 1-10 day old bolls.

Cotton fields vary greatly in maturity with some fields well past cutout (< 5 NAWF). Insect pests to be on the alert for include bollworms, fall armyworms, stink bugs, cotton fleahoppers and aphids.

Fleahoppers may cause significant square loss into the first week of bloom. However, a larger plant may have fewer damaged squares from fleahopper feeding. I suggest raising the threshold for fleahoppers to as high as 50 per 100 sweeps in blooming cotton.

A second issue of concern is the beneficial insect population. Insecticide applications for cotton fleahoppers after 1/3 grown square should be avoided if possible in effort to maintain the high populations of beneficial insects. These insects will be important in maintaining lower populations of pest insects that may be found in the fields.

Fields with bolls should be monitored for feeding evidence from stink bugs. The evidence of stink bug feeding can be found on the inner wall of the boll. To sample, cut bolls open that are 1 inch in diameter and inspect the inner wall for "wart" like growths. **If 20 percent of the small bolls have evidence of internal feeding (callous growth on internal boll wall and/or stained lint) and stink bugs are present then treatment should be considered.**

Soybeans

Soybean maturity ranges from pod elongation R2 to mature bean (R8). Some beans may be harvested next week. I have found stink bug populations ranging from 0-18 per 100 sweeps. The **red-banded stink bug** comprises about 50% of the stink bugs found in my sweep net. The economic threshold for all stink bugs is 36/100 sweeps. Although rice stink bugs are being found in the fields, they are not considered a pest in soybeans and should not be included in your counts.

Asian Soybean Rust has not been found in Texas and should not be an issue in this years soybean crop.



Piezodorus guildinii
Red-banded stink bug

Grain Sorghum

Sorghum fields in bloom are being treated for **midge**; populations vary widely from field to field. Continue to scout fields daily through the bloom period.

I found as many as 6 rice stink bugs per head this morning. Dr. Parker's economic threshold for rice stink bugs is 1 per head from milk stage through soft dough. Sorghum may be considered "safe" from stink bugs after hard dough is achieved.



Rice stink bug

Dr. Roy Parker has been finding fall armyworms in sorghum fields to our South. These are feeding on both the leaves and head of sorghum plants at all maturity levels. For head worms, use a treatment threshold of 1 worm, larger than ½ inch, per head.

Bermudagrass pastures

Pastures need to be checked for fall armyworms as well. As in grain sorghum, I would not be surprised to find fall armyworms in pastures today. Thresholds in improved pastures vary with conditions but treatment should be considered when counts average three or more worms per square foot.

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

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