

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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Cotton

We are finding small **Cotton Bollworms** and/or **Tobacco Budworms** in both Bt and non-Bt cotton fields. These worms are smaller than 1/3 inch. Once blooms are present, an insecticide application may be justified when 8 to 12 or more small larvae are present per 100 plant terminals and 5 to 15 percent of the squares or bolls are worm damaged. Included with your newsletter is an ID Key for Cotton "Worms".

Transgenic Bt cottons are also effective against the cotton bollworm, but under heavy pressure from this species insecticide treatment may be needed. Treatment with foliar insecticides for tobacco budworm or boll worm should be considered when 4,000 to 8,000 larvae per acre larger than 1/4 inch are present (based on a population of 40,000 to 60,000 plants/ acre) or when 8 to 12 larvae larger than 1/4 inch per 100 plants are present and 5 to 15 percent of the squares or bolls are worm damaged.

Aphids are also appearing in portions of a few fields (0-27/leaf). Monitor these populations closely; if they rise above 50 per leaf and beneficial insects, such as lady beetles, lacewing larvae, syrphid fly larvae and parasitic wasps, do not keep them in check, treatment may be required to prevent economic losses.

While I have yet to find high populations of **stink bugs** in cotton fields, continue to sample by cutting 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

We have found 0 – 37 stink bugs per 100 sweeps in the sweep net and 0 – 1.5 per foot in beat sheet samples. Economic thresholds are 36/100 sweeps with a sweep net or 1 per row foot when using a beat sheet. Sampling method is one topic I am investigating this year; attempting to determine if a difference exists between using a sweep net and beat sheet. Literature suggests that 36/100 sweeps is relative to 1 stink bug per foot in a beat sheet but individual sampling methods may cause variability. Scouts using either method should become more confident with their findings after using their method over time.

Some fields have passed the damage window for stink bugs. The crop is no longer reported to be susceptible to stink bug losses when "beans are mature." Insecticide labels should be read prior to any pesticide application to make sure that the pesticide use is in compliance with the label. Labels may change from year to year and the label should be reviewed frequently. One such issue involves pre-harvest intervals. Pre-harvest intervals

of some of the more common insecticides used to control stink bugs are as follows:

Orthene 90S:	14 days
Various Pyrethroids:	21-45 days
Methyl Parathion:	20 days

Asian Soybean Rust has not been found in Texas and will not be an issue in this year's soybean crop. Enclosed is a brochure for you.

Grain Sorghum

Sorghum fields in bloom should be scouted for midge daily through the bloom period. If a field is treated for midge, resume scouting 72 hours after insecticide application. Midge may be found in the field prior to 72 hours but residual insecticides should control them.

Sorghum fields are susceptible to stink bugs from milking through soft dough. Use an economic threshold for rice stink bugs of 1 per head. Sorghum may be considered "safe" from stink bugs after hard dough is achieved.



Sorghum Midge

We are finding both corn earworms and fall armyworms in sorghum fields as well. For head worms, use a treatment threshold of 1 worm, larger than ½ inch, per head. Identification of the worm species is critical for choosing the insecticide. While pyrethroids may work well for corn earworms, they have not provided adequate control of fall armyworms.

Bermudagrass pastures

Continue to monitor pastures for fall armyworms. Thresholds in improved pastures vary with conditions but treatment should be considered when counts average three or more worms per square foot.

New faces in the field:

I have hired young men from Calhoun County for the summer. Some of you might know them, some of you might not. Brandt Boone and Matthew Behrens began work with us last week and will continue throughout the summer until school begins in August. If you see them in your fields and don't recognize them, please give me a call or just go up and ask them!

Calhoun County Crop Tour, June 20, 2006, 3:30 p.m. will begin at the Bauer Exhibit Building in Port Lavaca

Some supporters of YOUR IPM Program are:

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