

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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Corn and Grain Sorghum

Most of the corn has been planted and much of the sorghum has been planted. These fields are coming up quickly and seem to be off to a quick start.

On the insect pest note, while helping to plant the Victoria County Grain Sorghum Variety test plot, we saw several adult chinch bugs.

Adult chinch bugs are about 1/6-inch long with black bodies and reddish-yellow legs. When fully developed, the white wings are marked with a triangular black spot near the middle of the back on the outer wing margin. The insect appears to have a white "X" or white hourglass on the back when viewed from above.



Adult and immature chinch bugs suck plant juices and cause reddening of the leaves. Damage by chinch bugs normally occurs from seedling emergence until the plants are 18 inches tall. Large numbers of chinch bugs can move into a cornfield by crawling or flying from wild bunch grasses or small grains. Once in the field they congregate and feed behind the leaf sheaths of the corn plant and below-the-ground-line plant roots and crowns.

In fields with a history of early-season, economically damaging chinch bug populations, the use of at-plant oil-incorporated insecticides can suppress the development of chinch bug populations. Granular formulations may provide 2 to 3 weeks of protection, provided sufficient rainfall is received following application to wash the insecticide off the granules. Young plants should be closely monitored for chinch bugs and feeding damage after germination and particularly during dry periods, even when at-plant insecticides are used.

A few things to keep in mind are:

1. The insect must first feed on the treated plant to get the insecticide. When you first see chinch bugs in the fields, monitor them closely to determine if the population is increasing or decreasing.
2. Dry weather conditions may reduce the effectiveness of soil applied insecticides and seed treatments.
3. Overwhelming populations may require additional treatment to prevent yield losses.

The **economic thresholds** for chinch bugs listed in the corn and grain sorghum guides are the same:

Insecticide should be applied when two or more adult chinch bugs are found on 20 percent of the seedlings less than 6 inches high. On taller plants apply insecticides when immature and adult bugs are found on 75 percent of the plants.

Cotton

Cotton planting may be underway however; a word of caution is needed. Soil temperatures have dipped below 60° each of the past several days. Planting into cold soil will slow emergence. As the length of time between cotton planting and emergence increases past 7 days, yield can be reduced. I recommend waiting to plant cotton until the soil temperature stays above 60° for at least three consecutive days.

Soybeans

While soybean acres are down, they will still be a part of the IPM Program and I have a few recommendations for soybean pest management.

Stink bugs have been the primary insect pest for the past few years. The keys to stink bug management are through escape and monitoring. I think that stink bug populations may be avoided by planting soybeans earlier. For the past few years I have noticed that later planted beans had worse problems with stink bugs than earlier planted beans. All fields should be monitored at a minimum of once per week from bloom (R1) until R7. Soybeans should be safe from stink bugs 25 – 30 days prior to harvest.

Weed Control

One of the hot button issues at weed control meetings this winter has been weed resistance to glyphosate. When planting crops that are glyphosate tolerant, remember to include other herbicides or tillage in your weed control program. Resistant pigweeds have been documented to tolerate very high rates of glyphosate in several Southern states including Louisiana. Much of this resistance has not been spread from place to place but has been home grown.

Remember that one pigweed plant can produce 400,000 to 1,000,000 seed. These plants are also cross pollinators, so encourage your neighbors to rotate herbicides as well.

Please contact me if you see weeds that were not controlled by a glyphosate application. This will be important to catch early.

Publications on Stink Bug Identification and Asian Soybean Rust ID are available at: <http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu/Publications.cfm>

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