

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

Stephen Biles
 Extension Agent-IPM
 186 CR 101 • P.O. Box 86
 Port Lavaca, TX 77979

Office: 361-552-3324 • Mobil: 361-920-1138
 E-mail: biles-sp@tamu.edu
 Website: <http://ipm.tamu.edu>
 or <http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu>

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COTTON

Cotton fields range in maturity from cotyledons to 4-5 leaf. Although planting has occurred since early March, weather conditions have not been conducive to good plant growth and the plants have grown slowly with nodes stacked closely together on the main stem. What our fields really need is the sunlight that we have not consistently received for the past three weeks.



Thrips adult

Thrips can be found in most fields at low levels. Thrips are slender, straw colored insects about 1/15 inches long, with piercing-sucking mouthparts. Adults are winged. Thrips attack leaves, leaf buds and very small squares, and may cause a silvering of the lower leaf surface, deformed or blackened leaves, terminal loss and square loss. Under cool, wet conditions heavy thrips infestations may reduce stands, delay fruiting and delay crop maturity. Insecticide seed treatments should maintain these pests below economic injury levels.

In fields not planted with insecticide treated seed, **an economic threshold of 1 thrips per true leaf should be used.** In cotton that has been affected by the cold temperatures of the past few weeks, use a threshold a little lower such as 0.7 thrips per true leaf.

CORN



Corn Leaf Aphid

Corn fields have a wider range in maturity. While some fields are now tasseling, corn plants in other fields are only 2-3 feet tall. As with the cotton, the best thing for the corn will be more sunlight and less cloud cover.

Insects being found in whorls of corn plants are primarily corn earworm but I am also finding corn leaf aphids and sugarcane borers on/in the plants. The corn earworm is rarely an economic pest in whorl stage corn. However, proper identification should be made to ensure that the pest is not fall armyworms.



Aphids & Syrphids

Corn leaf aphids are being found on some plants; however, these plants also contain a large number of predators ranging from syrphid fly and lacewing larvae to parasitoids creating aphid mummies. In short, don't worry about the corn leaf aphids; they are helping to feed the beneficial.



Lacewing Larvae

Sugarcane Borers up to one inch in length have been found boring in the stalk. Once inside the stalk they are not susceptible to insecticides. Little is known about the damage caused by the sugarcane borer. Trials last year did not indicate yield losses as a result of this pest. On the other hand, if the caterpillar causes kernels to change color, reducing their marketability, it may be of economic importance. With this in mind, the anticipated market may determine the importance of this insect.



Sugarcane borer



Egg Mass

Watch fields closely for egg masses to determine the need for applications. I suggest using an economic threshold similar to that of the Southwestern Corn Borer: Insecticide should be applied when 20 to 25 percent of the plants are infested with eggs or newly hatched larvae.

The egg masses are typically laid in two-three rows on the upper or lower leaf surfaces, with the eggs overlapping similar to fish scales. They are white when laid and turn black just prior to hatching.



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Announcement!

Worker Protection Standard Training

June 5, 2007, I will hold a Worker Protection Standard class in the **Bauer Exhibit Building** (at the fairgrounds in Port Lavaca) beginning at 9 a.m. If you have workers needing the training we will have two classes running concurrently in both English and Spanish.

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

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