

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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Cotton

Cotton fields range from 3-4 leaf to squaring cotton. Younger cotton with less than 6 true leaves per plant should still be monitored for **thrips**. Treatment for thrips should be made when the number of thrips exceeds the total number of true leaves (not counting the cotyledons).



Fleahopper Adult

I have found **cotton fleahopper** adults and nymphs in cotton fields at 0-70 per 100 plants. Some of these fields do not have squares (floral buds) on the plants and are not susceptible to economic yield loss. Insecticide treatments for cotton fleahopper prior to squaring have not been found to increase yield and should be avoided.

The decision to apply insecticide should be based upon the number of fleahoppers present and percent square set. As the first small squares appear, examine the main stem terminal buds of 25 plants at each of at least four locations across the field. More sites should be sampled in fields larger than 80 acres.

During the first three weeks of squaring, **10 to 15 fleahoppers per 100 plant terminals** may cause economic damage and an insecticide treatment is warranted. As plants reach first bloom, fleahopper control is not justified after the first week of bloom. Throughout the past decade, numerous trials by Dr. Roy Parker have provided ample evidence that the 10 to 15 fleahoppers per 100 plant terminals is correct.



Cotton Fleahopper Nymph (immature)

Squaring is typically the time that we begin to consider the use of **plant growth regulators** (PGRs). If you choose to use a PGR, I suggest including an on farm trial of the product(s) used. By leaving a portion of each field untreated you can determine if the application had any impact on yield. I would recommend three untreated strips through the field to evaluate PGRs. Be sure to mark the untreated strips so you can check back on them later in the season and compare them to adjacent treated rows.

Corn

I expect to find eggs of sugarcane borers in corn fields this week. Based on research conducted to date, I cannot confirm the economic importance of this insect pest. The assumption has been made that this insect may cause discoloration of damaged kernels if moisture enters the ear during the hard dough stage. This may then result in the inability to sell the corn to be used for certain purposes. No research has verified any loss in quality other than the discoloration.

I suggest scouting for sugarcane borer eggs and treating high valued corn fields, such as food grade corn, when **more than 20 to 25 percent of the plants are infested with eggs or newly hatched larvae**. This is the economic threshold for southwestern corn borer used in the High Plains of Texas and should be sufficient for use with this pest.

Grain Sorghum

Some of the older grain sorghum fields are beginning to head out and should be monitored for sorghum

midge

Soybeans

Soybean fields that are blooming should be scouted for stink bugs. I have not yet found stink bugs in soybean fields. However, I may not have been in your field. Scout and treat every blooming field separately.

Economic Threshold

Economic threshold (ET) is the level of pest infestation when control should be applied to keep an increasing pest population from causing economical losses. The ET is also called the action threshold because it is the pest level where action should be taken so that economic losses are avoided. The economic threshold is a key IPM decision-making tool. Thresholds are based on considerable amounts of research and/or field experience. If the economic threshold is approached, but not reached, do not apply a pesticide at that time. Instead, re-scout the field within a few days to determine the status of the infestation. Pest populations can decline naturally due to mortality from natural enemies and unfavorable weather conditions.

John Robinson's Web Site on Cotton Marketing & Risk Management

<http://agecon2.tamu.edu/people/faculty/robinson-john/>

Publications on Stink Bug Identification and Asian Soybean Rust ID are available at:

<http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu/Publications.cfm>

Some supporters of YOUR IPM Program are:

Hlavinka Equipment Company, Moreman Community Gin, South Texas Cotton & Grain, Farmer's Coop of El Campo, Vanderbilt Farmer's Coop, Inc., Danevang Farmer's Coop, Inc., Helena Chemical Company, Sorghum Partners.

Please show your appreciation to these great organizations.

Important Dates Coming Up

Row Crop Tours: Times & Places TBA

Refugio County Row Crop Tours

June 13, 2007

361-854-4112

Morning Session in Tivoli

Afternoon Session in Bonnieview Park

Calhoun County Row Crop Tour

June 19, 2007

361-552-9747

Victoria County Row Crop Tour

June 21, 2007

361-575-4581

Worker Protection Standard Training

Calhoun County Bauer Exhibit Building

June 5, 2007, 9 a.m.

361-552-9747

You do not need to R.S.V.P. to this event.

Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Partnership with Texas Cooperative Extension will conduct an Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection on the following dates and locations **IN ALL PLACES 8 AM UNTIL 1 PM**

June 5th -

Luling Livestock Auction Inc.

15035 S. Hwy 183

Luling, Texas

June 6th -

Sons of Herman Hall

3689 S. Hwy 77/CR 223

Giddings, Texas

June 7th -

Wharton Co. Youth Fairgrounds

6036 FM 961 Road

Wharton, Texas



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