

MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun

Refugio

Victoria

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Volume 3, No. 9

June 18, 2007

Cotton

EPA Approves Natural Refuge for Bollgard® II Cotton. Monsanto announced June 4, 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency approved a natural refuge option for Bollgard® II cotton planted from Texas east, excluding some Texas counties. Now cotton producers in the eligible regions can take advantage of non-cotton crops and other plants as a refuge for certain pests and will not be required to plant a non-Bt Cotton refuge for Bollgard® II cotton. **This does not apply to Bollgard® cotton.** Refuge requirements continue for Bollgard® varieties. I have not heard if this will affect the refuge requirements of WideStrike® Cotton. Thus, continue to maintain the refuge adjacent to WideStrike® cotton, as required.

As expected bollworm eggs were found early last week and small larvae continue to be found in non-Bt fields. Continue to monitor all cotton fields for worms and stink bugs. When scouting for stinkbugs at least 50 small bolls (the diameter of a quarter) should be examined. 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.

Grain Sorghum

Scout grain sorghum for stink bugs and worms and continue at 5-day intervals until hard dough. Hard dough is achieved when you cannot squeeze grain between the fingers. Three-fourths of grain dry weight has accumulated by this time.

Soybeans

Stink bugs continue to increase in soybeans. However, I have yet to have a field over the economic threshold of 36 stink bugs per 100 sweeps. Species of stink bugs being found include Conchuela, Red-Banded, Southern green, Brown, and Red Shouldered stink bugs. We are also finding high numbers of predacious stink bugs in fields.



Mouthparts of
Predacious stink bug
Photo by Stephen Biles

The predacious stink bugs can be differentiated from the plant feeding stink bugs by their mouthparts. The proboscis of the predators is stouter than that of the pest. The first segment of the proboscis on the pest bugs is fused to the head in contrast to the predator which has mouthparts which can be articulated forward and used as a weapon.



Mouthparts of a brown
stink bug
Photo by Stephen Biles

Pastures

Pastures should be monitored for fall armyworms which may become problematic with the recent weather. Thresholds in improved pastures vary with conditions but treatment should be considered when counts average three or more worms per square foot.

Some supporters of YOUR IPM Program are:

Hlavinka Equipment Company
South Texas Cotton & Grain
Vanderbilt Farmer's Coop, Inc.
Helena Chemical Company
Cotton, Inc.

Moreman Community Gin
Farmer's Coop of El Campo
Danevang Farmer's Coop, Inc.
Milo Genetics
Texas Soybean Board

Please show your appreciation to these great organizations.



Row Crop Tours

Calhoun County Row Crop Tour

June 19, 2007, 3:30 pm
Bauer Exhibit Building Port Lavaca, Texas
3 hours of CEU's offered

2007

VICTORIA COUNTY CROPS TOUR

Thursday, June 21st
Sons of Hermann Hall, Da Costa, Texas
2 hours of CEU's offered



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