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MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun Refugio Victoria

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Volume 3, No. 11 July 3, 2007

Rain Rain Rain. More than five inches of rain has fallen in the past week and the forecast does not show any relief.

~Stephen Biles

Cotton

Cotton pests being found include bollworms and stink bugs. While we must continue to monitor these pests, insecticide applications may be of short residual due to the continuous rainfall.

Questions about Early Cutout

I have received a number of questions about the low number of Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF) in many cotton fields. After consulting with Dr. Tom Cothren, Professor of Crop Physiology at Texas A&M, as well as several other cotton researchers, I have come to several conclusions. First, the likely causes of the early cutout are plant stress from the combination of excessive rainfall and saturated soils, cloud cover and periodic sunshine. Other possible causes include early season cold stress. In short, multiple environmental conditions are the cause for this problem.

The next question is what to do about it. I don't think plant growth regulators, foliar feed or any other management activity will have much impact. There is not much to do but watch it happen. We still want to continue to monitor the NAWF in fields to see if fields are actually cutout. Cotton with 5-6 NAWF may still be in a reproductive phase and should not be considered "cutout." Continue to check these fields and see if they stay at 5-6 NAWF or if they continue towards cutout.

If the field maintains 5-6 NAWF, you may not want to use the crop termination rules in last week's newsletter. Instead, you will have to pick a bloom that will be the last bloom to protect until harvest. Keep in mind that is will take 45-55 days for a bloom to become an open boll.

Soybeans

Stink bug populations were at levels such that we had to make insecticide applications to all of the economic threshold treatments I am evaluating. Field populations range from 0-43 stink bugs per acre.

Grain Sorghum

Much of the milo is past hard dough or even close to harvest and should be safe from stink bugs and headworms. Hopefully the rain will let up and we can begin to harvest grain.

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