

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about Integrated Pest Management in Hockley and Cochran Counties from Kerry Siders.



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*Partners with Nature*

### Current Crop and Pest Situation

Since the last newsletter cotton insect pests have remained fairly quiet. Many fields are reaching that point of maturity when many insect pests cannot cause economic damage. So this being said, I would say that most cotton needs to be watched for another 10 days. The insect to be mindful of through open cotton is cotton aphids and cotton bollworms on conventional non- Bt or Widestrike cotton varieties. I have been finding cotton aphids in area fields as well as armyworm and bollworm moth flights have been fairly heavy over the last week. Late cotton which still has 4 or more nodes above white flower will need to be monitored through the first week of September.

The spotty rains over the last several days throughout Hockley and Cochran counties will help some in irrigation management and possibly irrigation termination over the next couple of weeks. If you have questions give me a call.

Weed pressure has not let up with these rain showers. In fact, I suspect over the next few weeks as we finish out the season, residual herbicides play-out, and we hopefully receive more rain that weed pressure in general will intensify. I would continue to pay particular

attention to Palmer amaranth or pigweed which is resistant to glyphosate. Do your best in limiting these pigweed from going to seed and adding more resistant plants to the seedbank. It will be imperative that you make note of pigweed resistant fields now and plan accordingly to tackle this problem in 2014 with a good base herbicide program of a yellow preplant incorporated herbicide.



Peanuts are still doing very well, but will need time to finish out what could be a very good crop. Flowering has slowed if not completely stopped in some fields. This is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as the pegs present form a harvestable pod. Risk factors for disease have increased with threat of rain and higher humidity, plus heavy irrigation. Foliage feeders have increased slightly this week, but none exceeding threshold. Irrigation will need to continue for awhile unless good rains are received.

Grain Sorghum has been making good progress under irrigation. Headworms (a.k.a. corn earworm, cotton bollworm) and various armyworms have been highly variable from field to field. Watch for midge on later planted milo.

## My Priority List for the Remaining Portion of August

1. Understand that just one lone resistant pigweed out in a field can represent several thousand if not a hundred thousand resistant pigweed next year!
2. Have a plan on irrigating over the next few weeks. Begin tapering it off, with the exception of drip which will go into September.
3. Make notes of which fields you notice cotton wilt symptoms, so that you might consider this in your selection of cotton varieties.
4. You can begin taking soil samples for cotton root-knot nematodes now. Much easier while we have soil moisture to sample in.



## Upcoming Meetings:

\*\*\*Pesticide Applicators training will be held here at the Extension office in Levelland on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and September 12 & 26. Call 894-3150 for more information.

\*\*\*The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute has been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Scottish Rite Temple - Learning Center, located at 1101 70th Street in Lubbock, (South Loop 289 and Interstate 27). This year represents the 61st meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources. Topics to be discussed at the conference include various aspects of pest identification and management, pesticide laws and regs, research efforts on row crops in the High Plains, and much more. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has approved a total of 6 continuing education units (CEU's pending).

Pre-registration currently is available online at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>. Registration forms have been mailed. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and must be completed or postmarked by August 31. On-site registration will begin at 7:00 am the day of the conference and will cost \$95 for attendees. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

## See You On The Radio

IPM Radio Program Ag Talk on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:30.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Hockley County Report on KLVT Levelland, High Plains Radio Network, radio 1230 AM, Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

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Editor: Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM

Contact information: 1212 Houston St., Suite 2 Levelland, TX 79336  
(806) 894-3150 (office),

638-5635 (mobile), or 897-3104 (Fax)

[ksiders@tamu.edu](mailto:ksiders@tamu.edu) (E-mail),

<http://hockley-tx.tamu.edu> (County website)

[www.tpma.org](http://www.tpma.org) (TPMA website)

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