

WEST
PLAINS
IPM
UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley,
Cochran, and
Lamb Counties
from
Kerry Sidors

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Current Situation

Cotton ranges from 5 nodes above white flower to hard cut-out. Ideally cotton will be blooming out-the-top by now; because we have reached that point when the odds of a bloom developing into a quality/yield contributing boll will drop to near zero over the next few days. In fact, most fields are shedding squares and some small bolls as a final adjustment in what the plant can naturally hold. Be sure though that this fruit shed is natural and not being induced by Lygus or bollworm in the case of conventional cotton. Most fields are generally pest free at this time. Occasional pockets of cotton aphids, tarnished plant bugs (Lygus), and bollworms can be found. Continue to scout for another twenty days or so. By September 10th majority of cotton acres should have 400 some heat units accumulated on the last bolls set, making them relatively safe from most insect damage. Irrigation has been where most questions are being posed. I will admit I get fairly conservative with irrigation as we move into the last days of August, and would rather err on the side of being too dry than too wet going into September. We have already had our chance of making quantity, now it is a matter of achieving quality through maturity. The last bolls set during this time need to be relatively stress free for 20 days (approximately September 10th). So as long as the plant recovers quickly from any wilting during a +90 degree day then those last bolls formed should mature properly. After 40-45 days (approximately September 30th) the plant can nearly go into permanent wilt and it should not have an impact on yield or quality. So bottom line – be very careful watering after next week. Call if questions.

Grain Sorghum is all over the board maturity wise. Do not get too concerned about whorl feeding worms. However, once that head develops then worry about worms. And worms are beginning to become more of a problem in grain here the last few days. If you are shaking out more than 1 worm(3/8" or larger) per head then you are going to have to deal with them. The sugarcane aphid continues its march west and north, and building to threshold levels in many area fields. We are finding yellow sugarcane aphids, greenbugs, cornleaf aphids, and another new aphid we are calling the hedgehog aphid. On Tuesday a fieldman from Sudan Coop, Justin Campbell, called about an aphid he had found just 3 miles east of Sudan in a field of grain sorghum. I went and collected a sample from Justin to take back to the office to identify. As I was going through the process of identification an email came across from

Dr. Eddie Bynum, Extension Entomologist, Amarillo, who had just received an inquiry about an aphid found by Jim Elzner, a consultant up in Lipscomb County. The aphid found in Lipscomb and Lamb counties were the same. It is *Sipha maydis* or as we are commonly calling it now the Hedgehog aphid. The name hedgehog because it has bristles on its body similar to the yellow sugarcane aphid, but it is brown to almost black as an adult. We have no efficacy data on this aphid as far as how it will be controlled when you go after the sugarcane aphid with Transform or Sivanto. For now we will assume it will work.

First found near Albuquerque NM in fall of 2014. It overwintered in Colorado in the winter of 2014 - 2015. CSU said, "We believe that we have observed non-sexual overwintering in Mesa County, with large populations seen on winter annual grasses in mid February at one site.² There is no reason to think it won't overwinter on the High Plains.



Distribution: (From Entomology Today

<http://entomologytoday.org/2015/02/03/new-invasive-aphid-pest-found-in-albuquerque-area/>)³The pest, *Sipha maydis*, is widely distributed in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and parts of

Africa, but in North America has previously only been intercepted in California in 2007, in a glasshouse in Georgia in 2012, and in Florida on produce from California in 2011 and 2012,² said Dr. Grasswitz.



Host plants: Scientific literature; *Agropyron* (wheatgrasses), *Agrostis* (bentgrass), *Alpecurus*, *Avena* (oat), *Bromus* (brome), *Dactylus* (orchardgrass), *Elymus* (wildrye), *Hordeum* (barley), *Luzula* (woodrush), *Poa* (bluegrass), *Trisetum*, and *Zea* (corn).

Entomology Today article: ³This particular aphid can feed on more than 30 different species of grasses and cereal crops, including corn and sorghum, although wheat and barley are reported to be its preferred hosts.²

Colorado hosts so far: *Bromus tectorum* (downy brome), *Hordeum murinum* ssp *leporinum* (hare barley), and *Eremopyrum triticeum* (annual wheatgrass).

Damage: (from CSU) Corrales et al. (2007) reports that *S. maydis* is found on the youngest leaves of the plants in the fall, and that it prefers mature stages of cereals. It infests the ligula area of flag leaves in late spring. *S. maydis* causes a

yellowing or chlorosis of the plant leaf near the feeding site. The aphid feeding damages mature cereals in the late spring by reducing functional leaf area and inhibiting head growth.

(Pat's opinion; after having looked at damage photos I would guess this aphid injected a toxin much like greenbug. The literature does not say this, but it also does not say it does not inject a toxin.)

Management: (from CSU) Management to protect the flag leaf from feeding damage is essential to protect yield. It is not known how *S. maydis* responds to insecticides currently used for aphid control in small grains.

UPCOMING EVENT

West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute will host their annual conference on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 63rd 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 pesticide application and laws and regulations, crop rotation and nutrient management strategies, weed resistance and insect resistance management, crop insurance, and much more. A detailed list of presentations and speakers can be found at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

Five CEUs for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and six CEUs for the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program will be available. CEUs for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) are pending.

Pre-registration is available online at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu/Registration.html>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and \$300 for a booth and must be completed or postmarked by August 31. On-site registration will begin at 7 a.m. the day of the conference and will cost \$95 for attendees and \$325 for booth sponsors. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

Contact Ken Legé at 806-773-7310 or KELege@dow.com for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration contact David Pointer, 806-746-4021 or dlpointer@ag.tamu.edu.

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute (WTACI) is 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. For more information visit <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

Private Pesticide Applicators Training

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Levelland on August 27. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individuals must call 806-894-3150 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the training on August 27 in Levelland. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the training; testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

Future PAT Trainings:

- August 27 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- September 24 Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- and October 22 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of trainings.

See You On The Radio

IPM Radio Program Aglife on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:15 pm.

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.

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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