

WEST  
PLAINS  
IPM  
UPDATE

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

July 15, 2014

Vol. 19 – No. 12

### GENERAL SITUATION

Since the last issue of *West Plains IPM Update* we have received various amounts of rainfall. Not everyone in Hockley and Cochran Counties though have received these rains. In general, we are in good shape for mid-July. Especially when we compare to the same time the last three years we are in a pretty good situation. Sure we can look back over the last two months and bemoan the events we have experienced. Some may not have the crop they intended to have, but most have their crops planted, up and growing with fair reason for optimistic yield results.

### COTTON

Let us look at what the average cotton plant looks like based on what I am finding in the scouting program:

*Average number of total nodes is 12 (range 8 to 15)*

*1st fruiting branch at node 7.2 (range 5-9)*

*Square retention of 1st positions is 96% (range 82-99%)*

*Node length is 0.75" (range of 0.5"-1.4")*

*Plant populations average 41,300 per acre (range 22,000 to 53,000)*

*Nodes Above White Flower 8 (range of 7 to 9)*

I began finding blooms and small bolls today, mostly in Cochran County. My projections for going into bloom with 8 nodes above white bloom are going to be close. This places first bloom on the early fields at July 24, with most fields hitting first bloom at around July 30 through August 5. This may seem really late, however, when I look at previous years averages we are only slightly behind the average.

Though we are finding an occasional aphid, evidence of beet armyworm hits, and various other insect pests it is relatively quiet currently on the cotton insect front. I would alert producers with conventional cotton (non-Bt varieties) that we are finding bollworm eggs fairly consistently and Dr. Pat Porter is trapping an unusually high number of fall armyworms.

My priority list for this upcoming week:

1. Monitor bollworms in conventional cotton
2. Keep close watch of aphids, *Lygus*, and beet armyworms as they may increase over next few weeks
3. Stay on top of weed control, especially resistant pigweed
4. Try to wrap up ground-rig fertilizing in next 7-10 days,
5. Look at the top 3-4 nodes on your cotton, if longer than 1.5" consider additional plant growth regulator

## Upcoming Meetings:

### **Pesticide Applicators Training**

**Required to obtain private pesticide applicators license from Texas Department of Agriculture**

**July 24, 1 PM, Extension Office - Levelland**

**Cost \$60. Please call the day before training to reserve your spot! 806 894-3159**

## See You On The Radio

**IPM Radio Program Ag Talk 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.**

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