

WEST
PLAINS
IPM
UPDATE

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

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CROP AND PEST SITUATION

Cotton ranges from 7 leaf stage to 15 true leaves with square set very good +90%. I am not finding blooms yet but do anticipate seeing some by end of next week (July 18). Generally, it will be after July 25 or so before we see most cotton beginning to bloom.

Cotton insect pests remain very quiet. In the IPM Scouting Program we have noted only a hand full of fleahoppers and Lygus in weedy margins. To-date we have not treated for fleahoppers or Lygus. I am seeing a Saltmarsh caterpillars moving in some areas. In fact, we have suggested a few field margins be treated for these caterpillars. Beneficials numbers are surprisingly good in some fields; though limited food source is available.

Weeds seem to be the most dominate pest at this time. A long varied list of weed species noted throughout both counties. If you need help identifying a weed and coming up with a control plan give me a call. Remember, these weeds serve as host to many of our cotton pests.

Cotton has made excellent progress over the last few weeks. Obviously there have been some major hurdles and most likely some of those will continue. Just a few acres are just now nearing bloom. These fields will be going into bloom with an range of 8-9 nodes above white bloom. This is a fairly typical value for our more recent cotton varieties. I still have an optimistic outlook for most area cotton production. As long as the heat units keep accumulating, with some good quality solar accumulation and we continue to receive some good measurable precipitation I will remain optimistic.

Peanuts continue to bloom with pegging and pod set going strong. We are about 7-14 days ahead of where we were at last year at this same time. Irrigation is critical at this point in peanuts. It is critical not only for the plant to grow but also it creates an environment which is conducive for peg penetration of soil. If soil surface is too hot and dry pegs will not develop properly, and hence no pod. No insect pests have been noted in peanuts. I have not seen much in the way of pathogens either. The dry environment will help reduce the incidence of foliar diseases. Weeds continue to be challenging. There are excellent herbicides labeled for peanuts. Just remember though that the options become fewer and more costly as the season progresses.

ONE WEED LEADS TO COMPLETE CROP FAILURE

Jun 25, 2014 by [Paul Hollis](#) | Southeast Farm Press



A four-year study recently published in the journal *Weed Science* shows how far-reaching the impact of a single herbicide-resistant weed can be.

The research was conducted over four years in four Arkansas cotton fields. In this study, 20,000 seeds of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth, which may represent only 2 percent of seed from one plant, were introduced into a 1-square-mile area. The weeds that resulted

were not managed, but allowed to “escape.”

In test fields, the seeds of one mature glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth plant were released. In the third year of crop production following the release, complete crop failure occurred due to infestation of this weed. This study shows the need for a zero-tolerance threshold in the management of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth.

Seeds can be dispersed by wind and water, and moved by animals, humans and machinery. Weeds such as Palmer amaranth, that can produce a large amount of small seeds capable of floating in water, can spread rapidly throughout a production field. Palmer amaranth has prolific seed production, rapid dispersal and high competitiveness with crops, making herbicide-resistant strains difficult to control.

In the Arkansas study, glyphosate herbicide was the only weed management used. In the first growing season, a separate patch of Palmer amaranth emerged 375 feet from the original location. In the second year, resistant plants expanded to reach field boundaries and infested 20 percent of the field area resulting in decreased yield and significant problems with cotton harvest. By the third growing season, glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth had completely colonized the fields, making the cotton crop impossible to harvest.

The expansion of resistant weeds seen in this research helps to explain the rapid takeover of many farms by glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth, particularly when glyphosate was the only means of weed control. It also demonstrates the need to keep all resistant-prone weeds from escaping control to prevent loss of an herbicide or technology. Weed control based on an economic threshold (dollars spent versus dollars returned) does not adequately consider the soil seedbank and the risk for herbicide resistance, according to the study.

Upcoming Meetings:

Pesticide Applicators Training

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

July 10 and 24, 1 PM, Extension Office - Levelland

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

Join Capital Farm Credit at the Next Generation Agricultural Conference in Lubbock- July 15 at Frazier Alumni Pavilion.

Designed to provide educational and networking opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, the conferences will feature topics including:

- Farm/ranch financial management
- Agricultural economic forecasts
- Farm/ranch planning and budgeting
- Succession planning and management

Event curriculum will be provided by Texas AgriLife Extension. Each conference is free and attendees will leave with a binder full of presentation and relative educational material.

To register, or for more information, visit www.NextGenLubbock.eventbrite.com or call 877.944.5500.

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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