

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

July 26, 2018

Vol. 23 – No. 13

CURRENT CROP AND PEST SITUATION

As I write this newsletter it has been raining now for near two hours. Hopefully we will continue to receive more over the next day or two. Thank you, God! I hope this is what you needed. Well it has become just a bit more interesting in the field this last week. Worms have become much more active in a couple of situations.

Peanuts did not take the last round of +100-degree weather very well in most cases. The heat stress caused many fields to stop flowering, or the flowers were desiccated by the heat. Either way flowering should start back soon with this current weather pattern. The issue is this break in flowering will create two distinct maturity groups at harvest. This will complicate digging by the waiting around for the last set to mature, while the first set could be deteriorating in quality. I am finding no more than 2 worms per row foot in area fields. The threshold is well above this.

Cotton ranges from 1/3 grown square to near hard-cutout with only 1-2 nodes above white flower. Ideally, we would like to be around 5-6 nodes above white flower at this time. This allows us to take full advantage of effective bloom period and have that last bloom set before odds decrease dramatically for full maturity. Insect pests have heated up somewhat in cotton. The scout (Sam Moody and Riley Siders) have been finding fleahoppers, Lygus, stink bugs, cotton aphids, beet armyworms and garden webworms. The garden webworms have probably drawn the most attention.



Figure 1 Garden Webworm

Continued from page 1.

The Garden webworms have typically been drawn to fields having pigweed. The eggs are laid on these pigweeds and the small worms develop there until the plant is destroyed by cultivation, herbicide or the worm itself. There is a fair amount of webbing and waste associated with their foliage feeding. Their feeding also “skeletonizes” the leaf or leaves the veins (see image in figure 1 on page 1). When the pigweed is removed then this can force the webworms onto the cotton causing similar foliage damage. What may complicate this is that we are also finding some “hits” from beet armyworms as well. Nothing to get overly concerned about now, but worth having a qualified scout walking the fields. Here is the link to our Cotton Insect Guide: <https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2018/01/Cotton-Insect-Management-Guide.pdf> See page 5 for the contents and information on specific pests.

My priorities this next week are:

1. Keep up with crop water demands, we are at or near peak use in flowering cotton, and peanuts.
2. Wrap up all fertilizing in cotton, these later applications only delay maturity. The only exception would be late milo you know has a realistic potential to yield.
3. Keep close watch on aphids, Lygus, cotton bollworms, beet armyworms, and garden webworms over next month.
4. Maintain our good square set going into flowering on late cotton and maintain a good boll set with limited damage and losses.
5. Do not let cotton vegetative growth get out of hand. We should be done with growing a plant, we are making cotton now.
5. Be proactive on peanut diseases.

Private Pesticide Applicators Training 2018 Cochran, Hockley and Lamb Counties

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Morton, Levelland and Littlefield throughout 2018. 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 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the trainings in Levelland; or 806-266-5215 by 3pm the day prior to any trainings in Morton. 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 required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location. Future PAT Trainings:

- August 16 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- Sept 13 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- October 23 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- Nov 29 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street



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 training.

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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