

# 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 SITUATION

Planting has been at full steam for producers in Hockley and Cochran Counties. Most are nearing completion of their irrigated cotton acres. Some have begun planting dryland cotton acres as the planting deadline looms in the not too distant future. Planting moisture ranges from still good to non-existent. Subsoil moisture is generally not good across most of the area. Peanuts are at crack and coming to a stand; grain sorghum and corn has been up and battling all the elements for the last month; and cotton ranges from still in the bag to 2 true leaves. No major insect issues have been noted. However, thrips need to be watched very closely on acres which were unprotected at-plant or are in close proximity to wheat or other small grains. One thrips per leaf is the threshold up to 4 true leaves. Use foliar acephate or dimethoate.

The County Ag Agents, Jeff Molloy in Cochran and Wes Utley in Hockley, and I have several applied research and demonstration projects already planted. Here is a list of some of those projects:

Extension RACE Cotton Variety @ Mike Henson's near Arnett; Extension cotton variety trial Ropes with Brad Johnson; DP FACT Cotton Variety @ Scott Fred near Whiteface; FM CAPS Cotton Variety @ Tony Streety near Smyer and a dryland CAPS + a seeding rate study with David & Anthony Albus @ Oklahoma Flat; Phytogen Cotton Variety @ Gene Polasek near Levelland; Cotton seed treatment trial and Nematode Mgmt trial @ Duane Cookston near Whiteface; a seeding rate study @ Brent Patterson near Morton; a seed treatment and foliar thrips study at Lance Borlands near Ropesville; a verticillium wilt cotton variety screen at Larry Smiths near Ropesville; and a at-plant preemergence herbicide evaluation in cotton at Duane Cookston near Whiteface. Other projects are planned.

Thanks so very much to these cooperators and the ag-industry companies.

I mentioned the preemergence herbicide project we have at Cookston's. I rated these plots yesterday, which was 9 days after treatment. I want to share some of this data with you.

At-plant Pre-emergent Herbicide in Cotton	% Weed Control (mostly Russian thistle) 9 DAT
Dual Magnum 1.15 pt/A	60 b
Direx 1.6 pt/A	96 cd
Cotoran 1 Qrt/A	98 d
Cotoran 1.5 pt/A	92 cd
Caparol 1.2 pt/A	86 c
Warrant 1.5 Qrt/A	50 b
Prowl H2O 1Qrt/A	88 cd
Check	0 a



Russian thistle seedlings.

## IPM Decision-Making

There is a 6 step process to decision-making in IPM

1. Identify the problem or pest
2. Determine the severity of the problem (scouting, traps, past history)
3. Assess the management options (do nothing, cultural, biological, chemical control)
4. Select and apply one or more options
5. Measure the success of options employed
6. Record the results



## Upcoming Meetings:

Pesticide Applicators training will be held here at the Extension office in Levelland on June 13 and 27. Call 894-3150 for more information.

## See You On The Radio

IPM Radio Program Ag Talk on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00.

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.



### **TOMATO VARIETY TRAIL**

The photo to the left was taken at a tomato variety trial which my father, Layden Siders and I are conducting. There are 6 varieties with 7 plants each. The tomatoes are planted in a bed covered with weed barrier, drip tape on top of that, 4' wire panels cover the plants in an inverted "V" shape, and then opaque plastic covers both sides of panels up to 3' to block wind, leaving a gap at the top for air movement. I would say that wind is the #1 enemy of tomato production. I will provide some updates through the summer.

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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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