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Crop Management Newsletter

News about Crop Management for producers in Dawson and Lynn Counties.

Thanks to the sponsors and the gins who support the Dawson/Lynn IPM Program
(found on page 2)

Emergence to Seedling

With the sun shining and the temperatures reaching the 90's over the weekend, cotton has started to really show growth.

This season is “delayed” when compared to most years. I personally think it is a good thing in the way the season has started. We have a full soil profile of available moisture and we planted into warm soils; getting our crop off to as good as start as you could ask. However, fields were emerging in about 4 to 6 days and then seemed to just sitting there and not really “growing.” The reality of it is, they were/are developing but just not getting taller.

Seedlings Work Hard

Despite the appearance of no-growth in the seedling stage, the plant is really working hard. The plant extends a lot of energy fighting seedling disease, producing physical and chemical defenses.

Cotton does not have true leaves pre-formed in the seed like other crops. Cotton must make its' true leaves from scratch. This long process of cell division and differentiation must all take place prior to leaf unfurling. Even though the seed starts this process 1 day after planting it still takes a long time before we see the first leaf.

Since the plant starts working on the next leaf long before the first leaf unfurls, succeeding leaves appear much faster than the first one. By the time the first leaf unfurls the plant will be working on the next 7 leaves, all in various stages.

Calculating Heat Units

This season heat unit accumulation should start the day you planted since we planted into wet soils. I will be providing a chart with the daily heat units based on the temperatures from the Texas Tech Mesonet sites at Tahoka, O'Donnell and Lamesa (next issue of newsletter).

Step 1: add daily high and low temps,
Step 2: divide the step 1 total by 2,
Step 3: subtract 60 from step 2.

Example: High of 100 and low of 60
 $100 + 60 = 160$
 $160 \div 2 = 80$
 $80 - 60 = 20 \text{ HU for the day}$

There are no negative HU's - use a “0”

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Thrips

Thrips are typically always the first insect concern of the season. Thrips are a pest in cotton from emergence to the fifth-to-sixth true leaf stage. At that point the cotton is able to out grow the thrips damage. Thrips damage the leaves, causing the leaves to curl upward and wrinkle. They can also damage the terminal bud causing excessive branching and delaying plant growth. Thrips damage can often look like weather damage or visa versa.

Following the rains thrips are not the threat they were earlier, however, we need to continue monitoring the young cotton (less than 6 true leaves).



Special THANKS to those who support
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Many Thanks to the Gins who participate and support the Lynn/Dawson IPM Program

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