May 11, 2012

Texas IPM Partners With Nature

AgriLIFE EXTENSION Texas A&M System

Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

Gaines County IPM Newsletter

Volume V, No. 1

IPM Radio Program—Every Wednesday 12:30 to 2:00 on AM 950

As you are getting geared up for this season, be sure to tune in to the IPM Radio Program every Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:00 on AM 950. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Agents from Bailey, Parmer, Crosby, Floyd, Hockley, Cochran, Terry, Yoakum, Lynn, Dawson, and Gaines Counties discuss current pest pressures, crop stage and development, and upcoming meetings.

Gaines County Integrated Pest Management Blog — http://agrilife.org/gainesipm/

Be sure and subscribe to the blog if you would like to receive a notification when there is a new post. Subscribing is easy… just enter your email address in the subscription box on the right hand side of the blog page. You will then receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription.

On-line Resources — http://gaines.agrilife.org/

http://gaines.agrilife.org/ Gaines County IPM Newsletters and 2011 Gaines County Research Trials Results

http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus-newsletter/ - Focus on South Plains Newsletter and 2011 South Plains Research Trial Results

http://ipm.tamu.edu/ Texas IPM Program and Links to other IPM websites

http://peanut.tamu.edu/ Peanut Progress Newsletter and Results from the 2011 Peanut Research Trials

http://www.tpma.org/ Texas Pest Management Association website. Click on "IPM in Texas" for a link to other IPM Newsletters from around the state

Newsletter Renewal—For those of You Receiving a hardcopy in the Mail

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter in the mail during 2012, please fill out the attached subscription form and return it to the Gaines County IPM Office.

To assist us in reducing costs, **if you have internet access, please provide your email address** and we will e-mail you the newsletter.

Benefits of having your newsletter sent through e-mail are: pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, click-able links to other internet sites, and sooner access. If you are not sure how to use e-mail but have access to a computer give us a call and we will help you.

If you are already receiving the newsletter by e-mail, no response is required.

General Situation

Up to this point, we have missed all of the storms that have passed through west Texas. However, on Monday and Thursday our luck changed and Gaines County was blessed with some much need rainfall. Rainfall totals have ranged from 1.5 inches to as much as 4.5 inches. There was some hail mixed in with the rainfall and there were a few cotton fields hailed out. We are still a long way from replenishing the depleted sub-soil moisture. However, this past weeks rainfall will help with seed germination in most fields. Unfortunately, that includes weed seed germination. Timely and properly applied herbicides will help to reduce early season weed pressure. Early season weed control is essential in order to avoid competition for water and nutrients between crops and weeds. Severe early season competition can cause crop stand and yield loss. Early emerging weeds will have a much larger impact on yield than weeds that emerge later in the growing season.

As cotton starts emerging, scout weekly for thrips. The effectiveness of a thrips application all depends on the timing of the application. If considerable damage occurs prior to treatment, then you may have missed your opportunity to have the most effect with an insecticide. The current action threshold is one thrips per true leaf through the fifth true leaf stage.

Wireworms Feeding on Cotyledon Leaves Prior to Emergence

During the past couple of years we have seen an increase in the number of fields that are infested with wireworms.

Wireworms are the soil dwelling larvae of click beetles. Problems with wireworms appear to be greatest in fields following grain crops. Search in the soil to figure out whether or not wireworms are present. Growers should consider using seed treatments if they have wireworms in their fields. Use a seed treatment containing imidacloprid (Gaucho 600, Aeris, and generics such as Macho 600), thiamethoxam (Cruiser, Avicta Complete) or clothiadan (Poncho/Votivo), or an in-furrow insecticide such as Thimet. Temik is not highly effective on wireworms.

Wireworms feed on the cotyledons prior to plant emergence. This causes "shot" holes in the leaves.

Wireworms can also feed on the stem of the young plants. Most of the time they will feed on several areas of the stem and they may not chew the stem completely in half.

Conditions that adversely affect wireworms are cold winters, irrigation or rainfall during the winter or early spring that flood fields. We have not had these types of adverse conditions during the last couple of winters. This could be part of the reason that we are seeing an increase in the number of fields infested with wireworms.

Plants that emerge rapidly will have a better shot at getting through the window when they are most susceptible to wireworm damage and other early season pests (such as thrips). This adds further backing to the fact that we should plant when we have the most favorable conditions.

"Shot" Holes in Leaves. ***Photo Courtesy of Kurt Brown***

Wireworm

Wireworm feeding damage on stems

Hemileuca slosseri (Buckmoth) larvae are being found throughout Gaines County. The larva are pale yellow with tufts of black branched spines and a reddish head. This has been found in high numbers around homes, schools, barns, and Shinnery oak. The larvae's primary host is Shinnery oak (*Quercus havardii*).

Buckmoth larvae

Dr. Mark Muegge, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Entomologist out of Fort Stockton, provided the following information. Larvae usually complete feeding in late May to early June, but being as warm as this spring has been probably caused eggs to hatch earlier than normal. Larvae pupate in leaf litter under the host plant and don't emerge as adults until early November. The length of the adult flight season is not well known, but my guess would be to the end of November. Interestingly, moths emerge from pupae in early morning with mating occurring during morning to afternoon. All this takes place very close to the ground, presumably because of general windy conditions. Eggs are laid and overwinter till spring when warm temps induce egg hatch. Also, the tufts of spines on the caterpillar are urticating and can cause welts that can last up to a week in those susceptible to the toxin. So take care in handling larvae. The adult moths of most species are attractive, unfortunately Hemileuca slosseri is not one of them. Wing coloration is nearly absent.

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Gaines County IPM Blog
http://agrilife.org/gainesipm/

Gaines County Website
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Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. Thank you!

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