

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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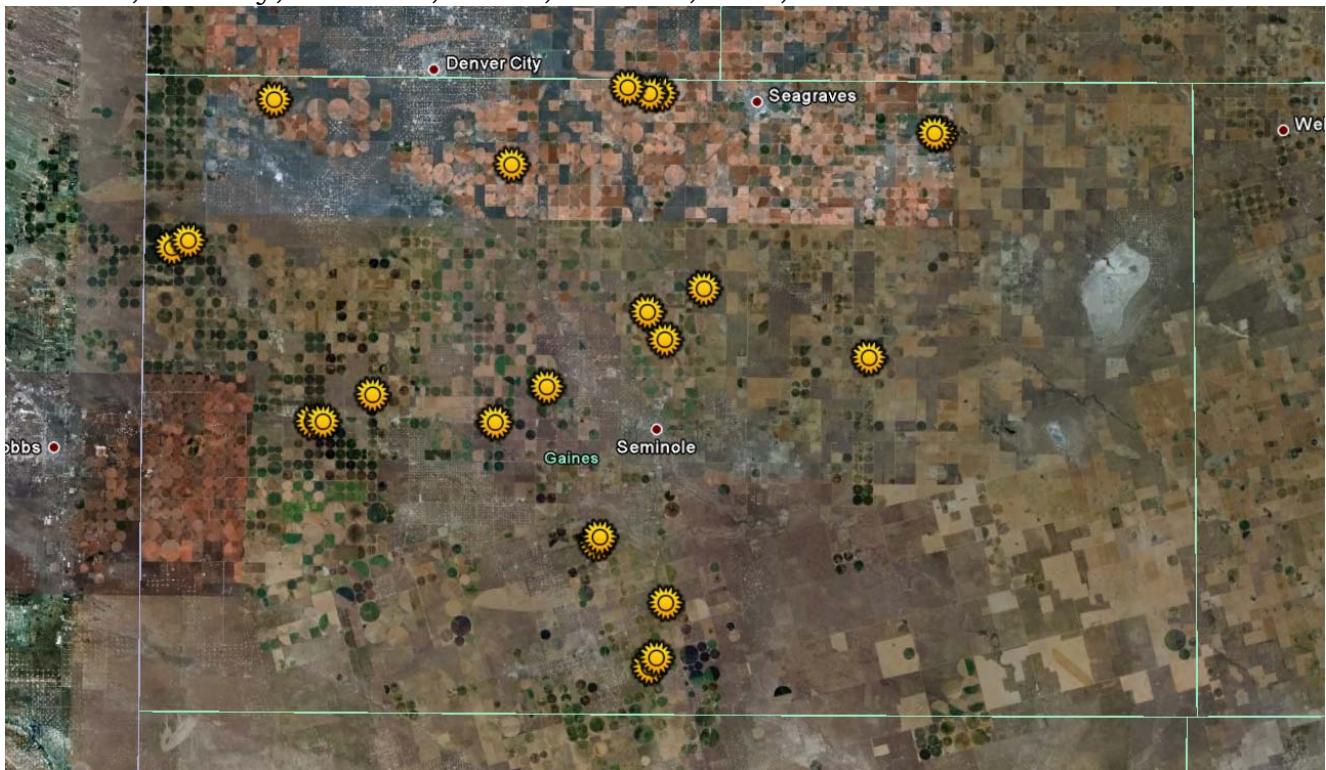
August 26, 2011

General Situation

Cotton harvesting time is quickly approaching. We will probably see some fields being defoliated in the next couple of weeks. Peanut harvest will likely be pushed back a couple of weeks, due to the later crop set. Southern Blight has been confirmed in a couple of fields (See section on *Peanut Diseases* below).

Kurtomathrips

Below is a map of the fields that we have identified as being infested with Kurtomathrips. Several crop consultants and ag industry representative have also reported that they have found Kurtomathrips in several other fields in Gaines County. This is a widespread pest. They have also been reported in Terry, Yoakum, Hockley, Lubbock, Garza, Dawson, Hale, and Borden Counties.



This week we found fields that had recently been infested with Kurtomathrips. Fields under extreme stress are the most susceptible. Small areas of infestation can quickly spread throughout the whole field when a stress event occurs. I would recommend scouting your fields every other day and make good notes of newly infested areas. When deciding whether or not an insecticide is justified, you need to consider the cost of chemical and application, and the value of the bolls that still need to be filled. Additionally, defoliation is likely going to be difficult this year due to the fact that the leaves are leathery and unable to take up a lot of chemical.

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Kurtomathrips infestations may further complicate things, since their feeding cause the leaves to dry up and become brittle. The only bright side to these thrips is that they are easily controlled and the cost for an insecticide can be around \$1.50/acre, depending on your insecticide choice.

On July 25 we applied an insecticide trial in an infested field. At 5 days after treatment Intruder (Acetamiprid) at 1oz, Orthene (Acephate) at 8oz, and Trimax Pro (Imidacloprid) at 1.8 oz had the greatest impact on the *Kurtomathrips*.

We applied a second insecticide trial on August 17. At 7 days after treatment all of the insecticides had significantly reduced the number of *Kurtomathrips* per leaf (See Table 1).

Table 1. Average number of *Kurtomathrips* per 10 leaves

Treatment Name	Average Number of Thrips per 10 leaves
Untreated Check	274.8 a
Trimax Pro 1.2 oz	52.3 b
Trimax Pro 1.8 oz	29.5 b
Orthene 97 4 oz	20.0 b
Orthene 97 8 oz	26.0 b
Intruder 0.6 oz	25.5 b
Intruder 1 oz	30.5 b
Centric 40WG 1.8 oz	54.5 b
Centric 40WG 2.5 oz	22.5 b

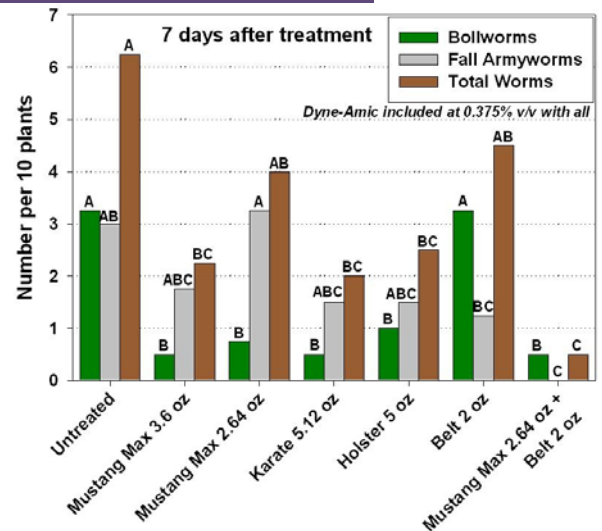
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this pest. For more information on Kurtomathrips, please refer to my July 29 and August 5 newsletters, which can be found on the web at

<http://gaines-co.tamu.edu/newscat.cfm?COUNTY=Gaines&CatID=2032>

Dr. David Kerns, Extension Entomologists, has also extensively covered this pest in the last couple editions of *FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture*, which can be found on the web at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/>

Bollworms, fall armyworms, & beet armyworms

We are finding bollworms, fall armyworms, and beet armyworms in non-Bt cotton and peanuts. We have treated two non-Bt cotton fields near the Texas/New Mexico state line. Do not rely solely on a pyrethroid if you have a combination of bollworms and fall armyworms. Fall armyworms are less susceptible to pyrethroids. Below are the results from an insecticide trial that we applied last year. The Mustang Max + 2 oz Belt gave us the best control.



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Peanut Diseases – Reported By Dr. Jason Woodward in the August 25, 2011 edition of FOCUS of South Plains Agriculture

The pathogen that causes Southern blight is *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Several things must be taken into consideration when determining treatment options. First off, is there sufficient yield there to protect. The effects of widespread drought have greatly impacted flowering, pegging, as well as pod initiation and development. To be blunt some of the peanuts there may not be worth protecting. More importantly, however, is the level of disease. It is not uncommon to see sporadic occurrences of Southern blight any given year. Fungicide application made to protect against pod rot appear to suppress Southern blight. So there is the potential for increased incidence of Southern blight if pod rot application were avoided due to the hot dry conditions; however, the level of Southern blight pressure I see on the High Plains is moderate at best.

The most severe Southern blight I have seen this season is occurring under two scenarios 1) in areas where water is pooling due to a leak in the irrigation line and 2) in fields experiencing excessive fluctuations in soil moisture between irrigation events. Physically monitoring disease development is also important when considering fungicide applications. The majority of fields exhibiting symptoms of Southern blight show little activity of *S. rolfsii* in the lower canopy. When dealing with aggressive populations of the fungus, it is common to see the disease progress down long portions of the row; similar to what we see with Sclerotinia blight, which is essentially non-existent this year. The appearance of the fungus in the lower canopy can be an indicator as to how the disease may develop. For example, if the fungus is actively growing with mycelium (the white moldy growth) bridging the space between plants, killing numerous plants and producing a large number sclerotia then there is the potential for yield loss. However, if the fungus is restricted to the crown area or a few lateral branches and relatively inactive then yield losses will not occur. When scouting for Southern blight, keep in mind that the fungus can also affect pegs and pods below ground with little to no evidence of the fungus on the soil surface. Furthermore, there is a saprophytic fungus that resembles Souther blight that possesses no threat to yield or vine integrity. One way to differentiate the two is to closely examine the affected area. If the fungus is easily removed with your finger and the underlying tissue is not degraded then you are dealing with the ‘tooth fungus’ that will not affect yield.

FSA Acreage Report as of August 22, 2011

Table 2. FSA acreage report for Gaines County

Cotton	Irrigated	Total Acres	209,968
Cotton	Irrigated	Failed	39,086
Cotton	Non-Irrigated	Total Acres	132,670
Cotton	Non-Irrigated	Failed	123,159
Peanuts	Irrigated	Runners	8,488
Peanuts	Irrigated	Spanish	1,141
Peanuts	Irrigated	Valencia	26
Peanuts	Irrigated	Virginia	10,909

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