

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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General Situation

Tuesday and Wednesday (July 12 & 13) brought scattered showers to Gaines County. We received 0.06 inches in Seminole, 0.10 inches west of Seminole, 0.9 inches south of Seminole, 0.05 to 1 inch near Higginbotham, and as much as 2 inches in the far SE part of Gaines County. Prior to this, our last significant rainfall occurred between June 27 and July 12, **2010**. So as you probably guessed, this week's showers didn't make a dent in our drought. Cotton stages range from 6 true leaves on replanted cotton to blooming. Square set is ranging from 90 to 100%. Blooming cotton is ranging from 5 to 11 Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF), with several fields at 7 NAWF. Those fields which started blooming at 5 NAWF are considered cutout and most of the carbohydrates produced by the plant from here on out will be committed to boll development. At this point lack of rainfall and 100+ degree weather is the major contributing factors to a reduction in plant growth (stunted plants & reduced canopy) and production (small fruit).

Most peanuts are blooming and some fields have pegs and small pods. However, overall there are significantly fewer pegs and pods as compared to last year at this time. The high temperatures, drought, and low humidity have reduced the plants ability to set pegs. Water demand is going to increase with both cotton and peanuts blooming and setting cotton bolls and peanut pods. Irrigation will have a hard time keeping up with the plants demands.

What does this mean for local producers? Producers are going to be faced with some hard decisions. The high water demands, depleted sub soil moisture, and continued hot dry weather will likely force some producers to consider diverting irrigation in hopes of salvaging at least some of their crops. Producers will have to decide which field has the highest likelihood of surviving the drought, if they have the ability to divert water from one field to another field. **Be sure to contact your insurance agent before you make any of these decisions.**

As of July 10, the FSA is reporting there was 170,676 acres planted to irrigated cotton and 18,408 acres have been failed. To my knowledge there are no dry-land fields that have emerged.

We found a few small bollworms in our peanut fields this week. This light population will not cause any economic damage to our peanut fields. Other than the occasional spider mite populations, no insects or diseases of any significant level have been found in peanuts or cotton.

Charcoal Rot in Cotton

Adding insult to injury...the hot dry weather and water stress has brought on a very unusual pest. Charcoal rot, caused by *Macrophomina phaseolina*, was found in a cotton field west of Seminole.

The first evidence of charcoal rot is wilting of plants, followed by chlorosis and shedding of the leaves and death of the seedling or plant. A gray lesion may be seed spreading up from the root and crown to the stem. Infection takes place either via the cotyledons, as they emerge through the soil, or the taproot and crown. The pathogen may infect the plant early, resulting in preemergence or postemergence seedling mortality, or it may remain latent until the plant is predisposed to symptom development by the onset of senescence or drought-related stress. *(This description was obtained from the Compendium of Cotton Diseases, Second edition 2001, edited by T.L. Kirkpatrick and C.S. Rothrock)*

There are not fungicides labeled for the control of Charcoal rot. The infected plants look similar to Fusarium wilt. Therefore, proper diagnose is important. Please give me a call if you have a field that you suspect may have charcoal rot.



Figure 1. Gray lesion spreading up from the root to the stem



Figure 2. Plants that have died after being infected with charcoal rot

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming meeting

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will host a Multi-County series of 3 meetings on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 that will focus on area crops in relation to current drought conditions. This program series is designed so that producers may attend any or all of the 3 series of meetings.

The annual Peanut Field Day will begin at the Gaines County Civic Building located at 402 N. W. 5th Street, Seminole, Texas. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the tour to area fields departing at 9:15 a.m. Dr. Jason E. Woodward - Plant Pathologist for Texas AgriLife Extension, Dr. Calvin Trostle - Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Dr. Todd Baughman - Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Manda Anderson - Texas AgriLife Extension IPM Agent, and Terry Millican - Texas AgriLife Extension Agriculture Agent, as well as peanut and cotton industry representatives will be present to discuss peanut and cotton production practices including irrigation management,

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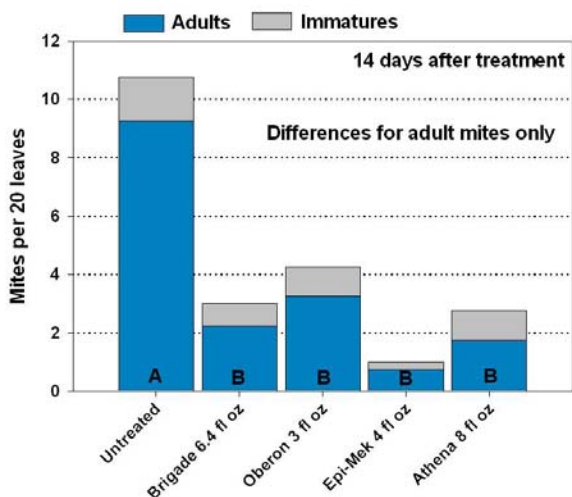
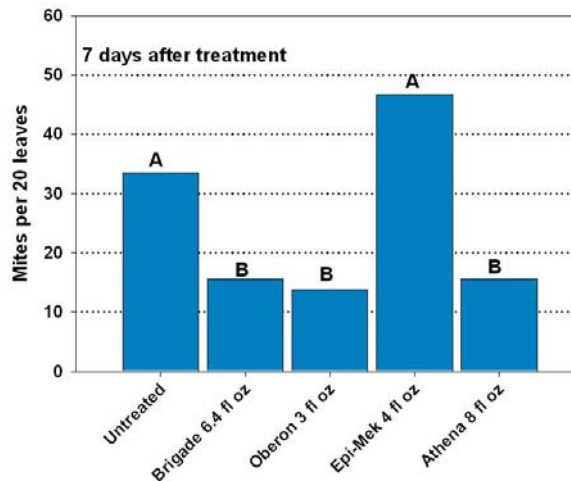
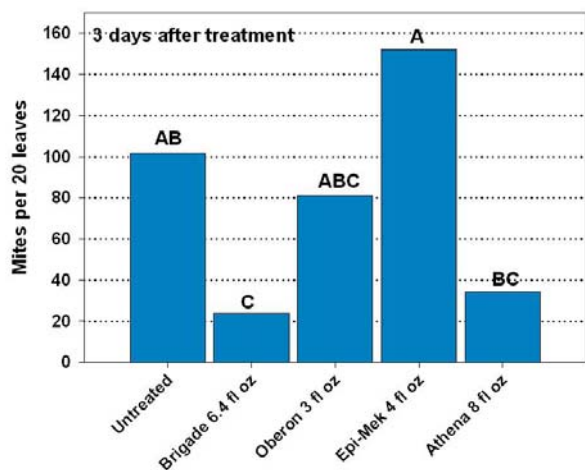
disease management, weed control, fertilization, and chemical use, etc..... The Program will conclude with a lunch at the Gaines County Civic Building. Individuals with pesticide applicators licenses will be awarded three (3) general Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for attending this program.

A Wheat Production meeting will be 2nd on the agenda and will be held immediately following the Peanut Field Day at the Gaines County Civic Building at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Calvin Trostle will present the program which will focus on wheat production for both forage and grain. Individuals with pesticide applicators licenses will be awarded one (1) general Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for attending this program.

The final session of activities will be an Alfalfa Production meeting which will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Gaines County Civic Building with a light supper and refreshments and will include a trip to a local alfalfa field. Dr. Calvin Trostle, Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist, will be the keynote speaker at the meeting. Individuals with pesticide applicators licenses will be awarded one (1) general Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for attending this program.

Spider mites

Spider mites are still present in some fields at very low levels. Below are results from the spider mite test that was put out near Welch, TX at 3, 7 and 14 days after treatment.



Dr. David Kerns, also put out a second mite test and he reported the following results in the June 13 edition of FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture that be found on the web at http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/focus_2011/July_13/July_13.pdf. Bifenthrin (Brigade, Sniper and other generics) at 5-6.4 fl oz/ac, Oberon at 3-6 fl oz, Epi-Mek (also Abba, Agri-Mek, Zoro and other generics) at 6-8 fl oz, or Zeal at 0.75-1 oz. Use higher rates when the mite population is very high or dust and webbing is on the leaves. Use high spray volumes if possible. At least 15 gal/ac by ground or 5 gal/ac by air and include a non-ionic surfactant.”

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Peanut Progress, July 2011

Initial pod rot fungicide Applications

Drought conditions are affecting the majority of peanut production regions in Texas, especially the High Plains. As a result, the peanut crop appears to be behind where we typically are this time of year. While blooms are present in the majority of fields peg initiation and pod development are lagging. Growers generally make initial pod rot fungicide applications 60 to 70 days after planting. When making initial applications, one must take into consideration the growth stage of the plant. Applications made to early (prior to peg development) may results in an increase in pod rot late in the season or lead to an additional (third application) being made towards the end of the season. To read more from the Peanut Progress Newsletter click on this link <http://peanut.tamu.edu/2011Newsletter03.pdf>

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