

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

Manda G. Cattaneo, Extension Agent - IPM
101 S. Main RM B-8
Seminole, TX 79360
(432)758-8193 office
(432)758-2039 fax



<http://gaines-co.tamu.edu>
<http://www.tpma.org>
<http://ipm.tamu.edu>
mgcattaneo@ag.tamu.edu

Volume II, No. 10

July 24, 2009

General Situation

A majority of the cotton fields are blooming and peanuts are pegging and forming pods. Verticillium wilt has been noted in several cotton fields and pod rot is starting to show up in some peanut fields. Severe wind storms hit Gaines County this past Friday and Saturday. A few fields have severe wind damage; however, a majority of the fields had minimal damage. Insect pressure remains low. We are still finding a few bollworms in cotton and peanuts. Growers need to continue scouting fields for these and other insect pest.



Figure 1. Severe wind damage

Several fields started blooming at 7 to 8 Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF). It takes approximately 300 to 350 Heat Units for a square to develop into a flower (which usually takes 20 to 25 days). In a 13 day period, from July 8 to July 20, we accumulated 296 Heat Units. This rapid accumulation of Heat Units was evident in some fields that are now at 4 to 6 NAWF. The dry conditions and high temperatures that prevailed from July 8 to July 20 stressed these fields. These stresses reduced mainstem growth which resulted in less fruit and square production. As a result some fields were headed towards an early cutout. However, significant rainfall on July 22 and 23 and cooler temperatures may have saved these fields from reaching cutout prematurely. In Seminole we received approximately 2 inches of rain. We received reports of 1.5 to 2+ inches of rainfall in western Gaines County. The recent rains will be very beneficial for cotton and peanut growth and development; however, growers need to be on the look out for disease development. The cool wet temperatures created an environment that will support disease development.

Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF)

Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF) is generally used to define how much “horsepower” a plant has during the blooming stage. A field is considered to be cutout when the average NAWF is equal to 5. To determine NAWF, count the number of nodes above the upper most first position white flower on a cotton plant. The last node counted on a plant will have a leaf equal to the size of a quarter.

Peanut Disease Update from Dr. Jason Woodward, Texas AgriLife Extension Plant Pathologist

The recent rainfall and a break from extremely hot temperatures experienced on the southern High Plains are greatly welcome. Despite this relief, these same conditions are conducive for the development of peanut diseases, such as pod rot, leaf spot, and Sclerotinia blight. One of the difficulties in managing peanut pod rot is getting the fungicide you are applying to the target-site (i.e. soilborne pathogens causing disease). I have had several questions regarding the application of pod rot fungicides in light rain. Producers commonly apply irrigation to redistribute fungicides after an application. The architecture of a peanut plant actually aids in the redistribution of fungicides around the pegs and crown. If pod rot is the main disease you are targeting, then applying fungicides to wet

foliage in the rain should result in improved control. However, if intense rainfall is received shortly after the application the fungicide may be leached out of the pegging zone.

Minor levels of early leaf spot have been reported in many fields throughout the area. While the >100° degree temperatures slowed progression of foliar diseases, attention should be paid to leaf spot over the next few weeks. Applications of Abound for pod rot will have some activity on leaf spot; however, leaf spot control may be reduced if applications are made in the rain to maximize pod rot control. Initial symptoms of leaf spot generally occur in the lower canopy and consist of small, chlorotic flecks on the leaf surface. As the disease progresses lesions become evident throughout the canopy. Chemical burns can often be confused with leaf spot. The production of microscopic spores within the lesion can be used in the diagnosis of leaf spot. Spores from these lesions are disseminated by wind, rain, or irrigation. New lesions from secondary infections appear after 10 to 14 days after infections occur.

The risk of Sclerotinia blight development will also increase with the cooler daytime temperatures we are experiencing. The majority of Omega or Endura applications should have been made within the past two weeks. Typical application intervals for these products are approximately 30 days; however, scouting should continue in fields with a history of disease pressure. If you have any questions regarding peanut diseases, contact Jason Woodward @ 806-632-0762, or via e-mail jewoodward@ag.tamu.edu.

Please join me in Thanking our 2009 Gaines County IPM Program Sponsors

Special Thanks to our Gold Sponsors of \$1000

Carter & Co. Irrigation Inc.
Oasis Gin Inc.
Ocho Gin Company
Tri County Producers Coop

Thanks to our Silver Sponsors of \$500

AG Aero
Nolen AG Services Inc.
Ocho Corp. Crop Plus Insurance
Western Peanut Growers

Thanks to our Bronze \$250 Sponsors

Agriliance
Anderson Welding Pump and Machine
Birdsong Peanuts
City Bank, Lubbock
First United Bank
Five Points Gin
Gaines County Farm Bureau
Ten High Gin Inc.
Valley Irrigation & Pump Service Inc.
West Gaines Seed and Delinting Inc.
West Texas Agriplex, Inc.
Whittenburg Crop Insurance

Thanks to our \$100 Sponsors

McKinzie Insurance
Moore-Haralson Agency PC
Seminole Butane Co. Inc.
State Farm Insurance

Information for this newsletter was obtained from the following publications:

- **July 1990 Physiology Today Newsletter**
<http://www.cotton.org/tech/physiology/cpt/plantphysiology/upload/High-Temperature-Effects-on-Cotton.pdf>
- **Managing Cotton Insects in High Plains, Rolling Plains, and Trans Pecos Areas of Texas 2009**
http://agrilifebookstore.org/tmppdfs/viewpdf_23_65528.pdf?CFID=1655155&CFTOKEN=69ae560de54647cd-83E6F309-7E93-35CB-845E092B6093F7D6&jsessionid=8e30ea9c9f093a440a57

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension is implied.

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