

## GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

Manda G. Cattaneo, Extension Agent - IPM  
 101 S. Main RM B-8  
 Seminole, TX 79360  
 (432)758-8193 office  
 (432)758-2617 fax



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

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### General Situation

Peanuts are starting to bloom and will start pegging. No diseases have been observed. Cotton stages range from 3 to 10 true leaves, with a majority of the cotton in averaging 4 to 6 true leaves. Several growers have commented that this is the windiest and driest season they have seen in several years. Mother nature has played a ruff game thus far and several conventional tillage fields have suffered from wind and sand damage. Some fields have been replanted. A majority of the minimum till fields are holding and looking good.



Figure 1. Minimum till field that was planted in late April

### Thrips

At this point in the game we need to keep a close eye on thrips populations and damage. Seed treatments and temik have probably played out and foliar insecticides may be justified if the thrips action threshold has been reached (See Table 1).

Thrips feed on leaves and leaf buds and will cause a silvering on the underside of the leaves. Cupping of the leaves is also associated with thrips damage. Wind and blowing sand can cause similar plant damage. However, wind damage often has more of a ragged appearance and you will often see scorching on the leaf edges.



Figure 2. Cotton with thrips damage

**Table 1.** *Thrips* Action Threshold

Emergence to:	
1 true leaf	1 thrips per plant
2 true leaves	2 thrips per plant
3 true leaves	3 thrips per plant
4 true leaves	4 thrips per plant
5-7 leaves or squaring initiation	Treatment is rarely justified

### Fleahoppers and Lygus

During the next two weeks a majority of the cotton will start squaring. Cotton fleahoppers and lygus could be a potential pest because they feed on young squares causing them to turn brown and die. Square retention should also be monitored in order to determine if you have an adequate fruit set.

**Table 2.** *Cotton fleahopper* action threshold is 25-30 cotton fleahoppers/100 terminals with:

Week of squaring	Square set
1 <sup>st</sup> week	< 90%
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	< 85%
3 <sup>rd</sup> week to 1 <sup>st</sup> bloom	< 75%
After 1 <sup>st</sup> bloom	Treatment is rarely justified

**Table 3.** *Lygus* action threshold using a standard 15-inch sweep net, sample 1-row at a time taking 15-25 weeps.

Cotton Stage	Sweep Net*
1 <sup>st</sup> two weeks of squaring	8 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of squaring to 1 <sup>st</sup> bloom	15 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set

### Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers have been reported in some parts of the county. The large jumbo grasshoppers can cause more damage than the smaller grasshoppers. Thus far we have only observed the smaller grasshoppers and we have not observed any significant damage. The damage associated with these grasshoppers has consisted of minimal feeding on the leaves and feeding along the side of stems causing the plants to break and die. The action threshold for the smaller grasshoppers is 10 per 3 row ft.



**Figure 3.** Young cotton with grasshopper damage

### Mark Your Calendars

**June 24<sup>th</sup>** National Cotton Council is holding a meeting to review key provisions of the new Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 in Seagraves at the Civic Building. Please visit [www.cotton.org](http://www.cotton.org) for more details.

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>** Gaines County Pecan Meeting.

**The Gaines County IPM Program is supported by various businesses. These businesses make it possible for us to keep you up to date on the current cotton and peanut crop stage and pest populations in Gaines County. Additionally, we have several on-farm research trials that will assist us in recommending cotton varieties based on water use and disease tolerance. We are also looking at the effect of seed treatments on early season insect pests and how the use of plant growth regulators can assist growers in their crop production. Please join me in thanking our sponsors by supporting their businesses.**

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**We would also like to recognize businesses that are supporting the Gaines County IPM Program through time, equipment and supplies.**

South Plains Implement LTD  
 West Gaines Seed and Delinting Inc.  
 West Texas Agriplex, Inc.

**Graph 1. Heat Unit (H.U.) Accumulation for Gaines County, Texas.**

