GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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Volume IV, No. 6 June 30, 2011

General Situation

The hot dry windy weather has continued. Water demands are going to increase as cotton and peanuts start to bloom. Cotton stages range from 3 true leaves to 14 true leaves, with a majority of the crop at the 6 to 7 true leaf stage and starting to square. Several irrigated cotton fields are short and have shortened internodes due to the compounding stresses that the plants have been under since emergence. Fruit size also seems to be smaller than usual and developing at a slower pace. The earlier planted cotton fields should start blooming next week. I will not be surprised if we see some fields start blooming at 5 nodes above white flower (NAWF). If this is the case, then the fields will be considered to be cutout at first bloom. Once cutout occurs, growth and flowering will decline and most of the carbohydrates produced by the plant will be committed to boll development.

With all of that being said, there are some irrigated cotton fields that look good. These fields will likely start blooming at 7 or more nodes above white flower. These fields likely have a larger irrigating capacity and/or have a thicker wheat or rye cover crop that reduce wind damage.

The June 30 issue of FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture addresses irrigation management questions. The newsletter can be found on the web at http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/focus_2011/June_30/June_30.pdf

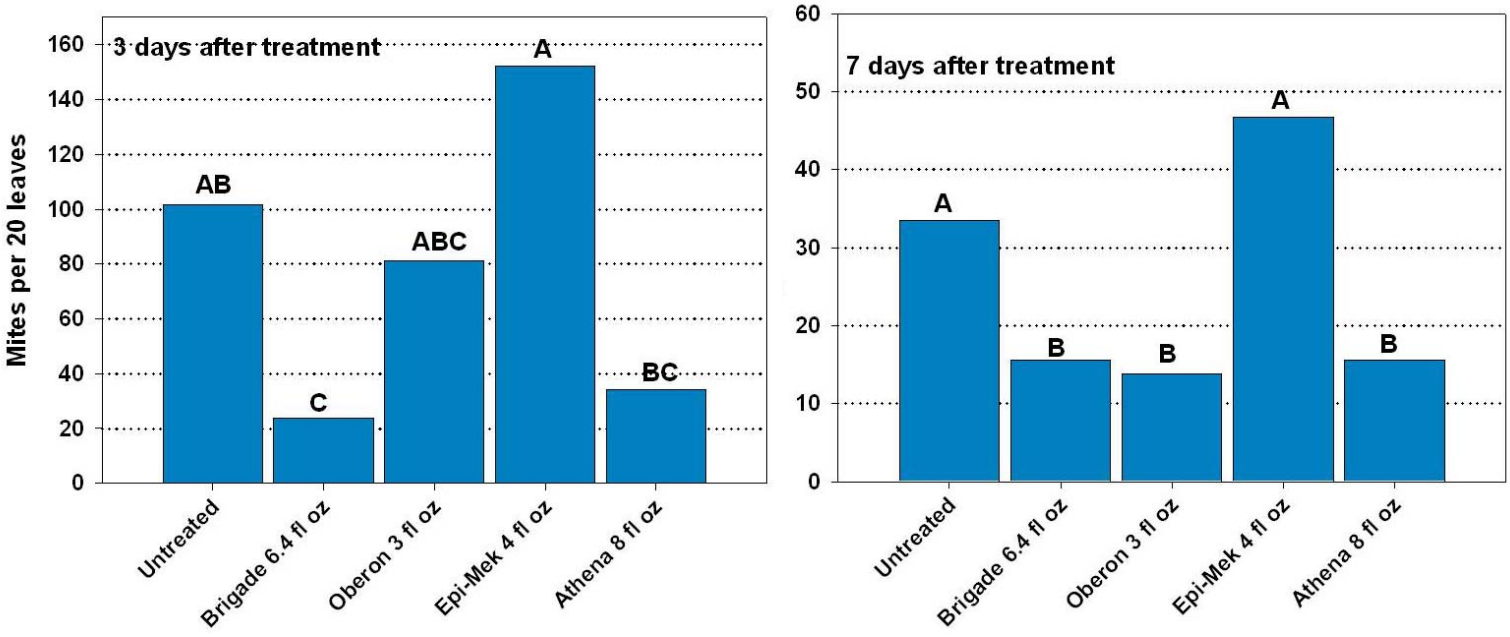
Peanuts are blooming, starting to set pegs and we have also seen a few small pods. Be sure to check Rhizobium nodulation on your peanuts. Six to ten nodules per plant is considered fair and we would like to see higher nodulation than this. Therefore, a mid-season nitrogen application is a good bet. Eleven to fifteen nodules per plant is considered good and will produce a good crop, so you may consider some reduction in your mid-season nitrogen application.
The latest edition of Peanut Progress Newsletter can be found at http://peanut.tamu.edu/library/pdf/2011%20Newsletter02.pdf

Pest populations remain very low at this point. The hot dry weather seems to be our biggest persistent pest. Nematode damage roots and stunted plants continue to be seen in several fields. We are also seeing light populations of spider mites and leaf miners.

Spider mites

Spider mites are still present in some fields at very low levels. Stippling can be seen on the topsides of infested leaves and spider mite webbing is found on the underside of these leaves. This pest likes dry dusty conditions. The worst populations are along the edges of the field where dust is covering the leaf surfaces. To my knowledge there have not been any fields treated in Gaines County. However, we are keeping an eye on a couple of fields that have had light spider mite populations for the last couple of weeks. The heavier populations seem to be north of our county.

Dr. David Kerns (Extension Entomologist) and several IPM Agents, including myself, worked together to put out a spider mite miticide trial near Welch, TX on June 24, 2011. We are evaluating Brigade (bifenthrin) at 6.4 fl oz/ac, Oberon (spiromesifen) at 3 fl oz/ac, Epi-Mek (abamectin) at 4 fl oz/ac, and Athena (abamectin + bifenthrin) at 8 fl oz/ac. All of these treatments included Dyne-Amic non-ionic surfactant at 3 pt/100 gal and were sprayed at 15 gallons per acre early in the morning. Below is the post-treatment counts at 3 and 7 days after the miticides where applied. Brigade was the only product that was significantly different than the untreated check at 3 days after treatment. All of the products, except Epi-Mek, where significantly different than the untreated check at 7 days after treatment. However, 8 fl oz of Epi-Mek looks very good late season. Dr. David Kerns also reported that Bidrin XP (Bidrin + Brigade mix) at 1 duo-container per 25 acre looked good in a growers field at 3 days after treatment. Coverage is going to be a key factor in all miticide applications due the amount of dust and webbing covering infested leaves. Dr. David Kerns has suggested that growers increase spray volume to at least 15 gallons per acre and to include a non-ionic surfactant and to apply them in the early morning or evening when evaporation will be reduced.



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