

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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Volume II, No. 6

June 5, 2009

General Situation

We have had some reports of hail damage in cotton and one report of hail damage in a pecan orchard. A majority of Gaines County still remains excessively dry. The final planting date for insurance purpose in Gaines County is June 5th. As a result, most dryland fields did not receive their much needed planting moisture and were dry planted.

The town of Seminole has received 2-3 inches of rainfall in the past month. However, the rest of Gaines County has missed several of these rainstorms. Parts of western Gaines County received 1 inch of rain this past weekend. This was the first significant rainfall this year. With the recent rains we have had a flux of emerging weeds, including Russian thistle (tumble weeds), Kochia, nut grasses, and Palmer Amaranth (pigweed). These weeds will have the greatest impacts on yields, because they can slow crop growth and compete for water and nutrients.

Thrips have been observed in several cotton fields and some peanut fields. However, an insecticide application for thrips on peanuts is usually not recommended due to the increase possibility of secondary pest outbreaks and likely will not result in increased yields.



Figure 1. Adult Thrips

Cotton stages range from emerging to 5 true leaves. Cotton fields planted during the later part of April have accumulated 433 Heat Units and will likely start squaring next week. Growers can use a Heat Unit (H.U.) formula to monitor cotton development in relation to the amount of useful energy available to plants each day. Cotton's base temperature is 60 degrees.

$$\text{H.U.} = (\text{daily high} + \text{daily low}/2) - \text{base temperature}$$

Table 1. Cotton Development by Heat Units

Growth Interval	Accumulated Heat Units
Planting to:	
Stand establishment	78
Squaring	526
First bloom	1064
First open boll	1641
95% mature bolls	2271

Grain Sorghum Production Workshop

June 15, 2009 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 at the Coleman Park Party House in Brownfield. Topics include: Variety selection, herbicide use, planting rates, fertility & water needs, and insect pests. (2.5 CEUs). Contact the Terry County Extension Office if you have any questions 806-637-4060.

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Properly Timed Postemergence Herbicides are Most Effective

The success of herbicides applied postemergence is largely dependent on weed size and coverage, which often go hand in hand. Be careful not to exceed weed size restrictions according to the herbicide label. Use crop oil concentrates or other adjuvants if specified on the label. Use an appropriate carrier volume to ensure thorough spray coverage on the weed. A weed that does not come in contact with the herbicide will not be controlled. Not all herbicides have broad-spectrum activity, so match the postemergence herbicide with the weeds you are trying to control.

Postemergence herbicides will be more effective when applied to non-stressed weeds, which often coincides with the first part of the growing season. Controlling weeds early is when you can achieve your biggest bang for your buck, the time at which weed competition is at its peak.

It is very important to understand the potential causes of herbicide injury. The following is a list of potential causes: improper incorporation, spray-tank contamination, improper sprayer calibration, excessive herbicide rate for the soil type, improper herbicide application timing or method, failure to adhere to crop rotation restrictions, interaction with other pesticides or spray additives, application of herbicide to crops under stress, off-target drift of herbicides labeled for use in other crops, small concentration of herbicides in irrigation water, and normal herbicide symptomology. (Reported by Dr. Peter Dotray, Dr. Todd Baughman, and Dr. Wayne Keeling in the Crop Production Guide Series, a supplement to Focus on Entomology newsletter)

Thrips in Cotton

Cotton fields should be monitored weekly for adult and immature thrips up to the 5th true leaf stage. The threshold is 1 thrips per true leaf. Thrips prefer to feed on the young tender leaves and on the underside of leaves. Thrips, particularly the immature stages, are somewhat cryptic and like to hide in curled leaves. Therefore when scouting for thrips be sure to tease open the curled and folded leaves using a knife or sharp pencil to find the thrips hiding inside. These tiny immature thrips will be an indication of whether or not the thrips are reproducing. If there is reproduction then this is an indication that the soil applied insecticide or seed treatment has played out. If this occurs, then a foliar insecticide application may be justified. (Reported by Dr. David Kerns, in the Focus on South Plains Agriculture Newsletter).



Figure 2. Immature Thrips

Heat Unit Accumulation

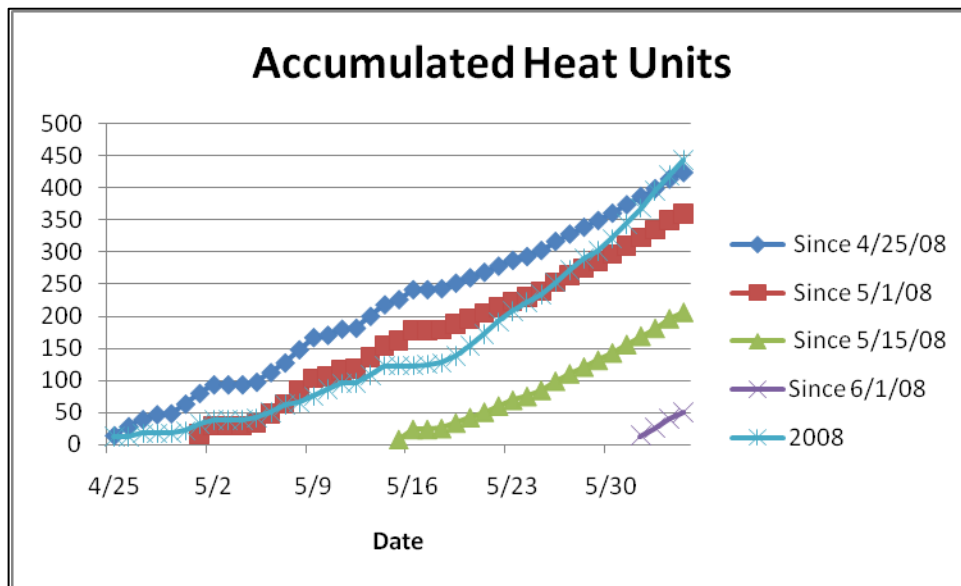
In 2008 we accumulated 423 Heat Units between April 25th and June 4th. In 2009, we have accumulated 433 Heat Units in the same time period. However, Heat Units accumulated at more of a consistent rate in 2009. In 2008, we had several cool days from April 25th to May 18th. This was followed by an exceptionally warm days, with several day above 100°F. This resulted in slow Heat Unit accumulation during the first part of the growing season, and rapid Heat Unit Accumulation from May 19th onward (See Table 2 and Graph).

Table 2. Distribution of Heat Unit Accumulation Between April 25th and June 4th, 2008 & 2009

	2008	2009
Heat Unit Accumulation from April 25th to May 18th	127	243
Heat Unit Accumulation from May 19th to June 4th	316	180
Total Heat Unit Accumulation from April 25th to June 4th	443	423

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If you would like to become a sponsor of the 2009 Gaines County IPM Program, please contact Manda Cattaneo at (432)758-8193 or (432)788-0800. *Thank you!*

Information for this newsletter was obtained from the following publications:

- **May 6, 2004 Crop Production Guide Series, a supplement to Focus on Entomology Newsletter**
<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus>
- **May 22, 2009 Focus on South Plains Agriculture Newsletter**
http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/focus2009/May_22/May_22.pdf

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