

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

Manda G. Cattaneo, Extension Agent - IPM
 101 S. Main RM B-8
 Seminole, TX 79360
 (432)758-6669 office
 (432)758-6662 fax



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

Volume III, No. 4

June 1, 2010

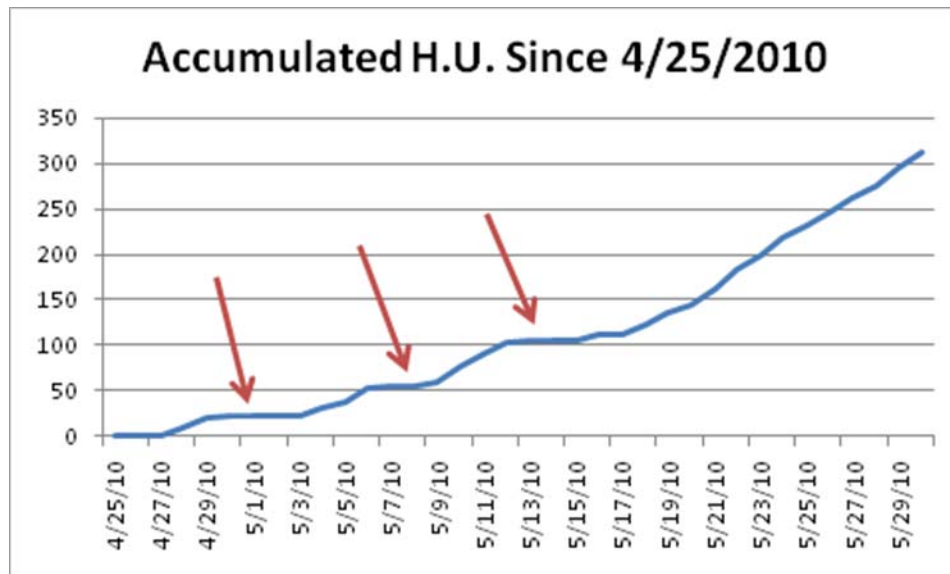
General Situation

The wet fall and winter built up high expectations for this year's crop. As we drew closer to planting time expectations began to dwindle as we did not receive the much needed planting rains. During the past month we have watched several storms detour around Gaines County. As a result we have not received any significant rainfall since March.

Despite the dry conditions cotton and peanut production for the 2010 is well underway. Most of the irrigated acreage has been planted and growers are working on planting their dryland production fields. The final planting date for Insurance Purposes in Gaines County is June 5. Current cotton stages range from just emerged to 3 true leaf stage, with a majority of the cotton at 1 true-leaf stage.

Heat Unit Accumulation

Cotton planted in late April and early May has faced several weather fluctuations. The graph below depicts Heat Unit (H.U.) accumulation since April 25. We have had several cold spells in which no heat units were accumulated during a 1 to 3 day period (as indicated by the red arrows). As a result, emergence was slow in early planted cotton and peanut fields.



I have seen some seedlings that have reduced vigor due to "big shank". Several of these plants have succumbed to fungal pathogens, and therefore have reduced the plant stand in a few fields.



Figure 1. Example of "Big Shank"

Thrips

I have observed several adult thrips in cotton during the last week, but I have not seen any immature thrips. This indicates that the seed treatments or soil applied insecticides are holding thus far in these fields. However, growers should be monitoring their fields on a weekly basis to detect a potentially damaging thrips population. Thrips populations can develop quickly in fields that did not receive an at-planting insecticide. Thrips are slender, straw colored insect about $\frac{1}{15}$ inch long. Adults are winged. Thrips attack leaves, leaf buds, and very small squares and may cause a silvering of the lower leaf surface. When scouting for thrips, be sure to tease open any closed leaves, because thrips love to hide in the curled up leaves. At our current weather conditions, it may be beneficial to treat for thrips when the average number of thrips is equal to the number of true leaves. For example: If you have 2 true leaves, then your action threshold is 2 thrips per plant.

False Wireworms



Figure 2. False Wireworm larvae

We have received several reports of stand reduction that is being caused by false wireworms feeding on cotyledon cotton. I was able to confirm the false wireworms in a couple of fields in the southwestern section of the county. Preventative seed treatments are the best means of managing wireworms.



Figure 3. Wireworm feeding damage on cotyledon cotton

Please join me in Thanking our 2010 Gaines County IPM Program Sponsors

Special Thanks to our Gold Sponsors of \$1000

Carter & Co. Irrigation Inc.
Oasis Gin Inc.
Ocho Gin Company

Thanks to our Silver Sponsors of \$500

Doyle Fincher Farms
Golden Peanut Company
Nolen AG Services Inc.
Western Peanut Growers

Thanks to our Bronze \$250 Sponsors

Ag Texas Farm Credit Service
Anderson Welding Pump and Machine
Baucum Insurance Agency
Birdsong Peanuts
First United Bank
Moore-Haralson Agency PC
Ocho Corp. Crop Plus Insurance
Pioneer Gin
Ten High Gin Inc.
Valley Irrigation & Pump Service Inc.
West Gaines Seed and Delinting Inc.

Thanks to our \$100 Sponsors

Commercial State Bank
McKinzie Insurance
State Farm Insurance

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