

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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General Situation

Harvest time is here! The cold front that passed through the High Plains yesterday may have slowed things down a bit, but growers are itching to get started. Several growers with fields that are ready to be harvested are holding off and waiting for a warm spell before they apply defoliants and start harvesting peanuts. A majority of the cotton fields have open cotton. Several fields still need several days of warm sunny weather before they will be ready for defoliation. Some peanuts have already been dug and a few cotton fields have been harvested. Growers should have cut off the water on their cotton by now and peanuts should only be watered to keep them fresh and aid in digging.

Number of Heat Units required to produce a mature boll

It takes approximately 850 Heat Units (H.U.) for a bloom to develop into a mature boll. Although 750 H.U. can produce an acceptable boll that may have low micronaire. Growers can use Table 1 to estimate the number of H.U. a boll has accumulated since it was a white flower. For example: An August 1st white flower has accumulated 875 H.U., and therefore it has accumulated more than enough H.U. to develop into a mature boll. However, an August 15th white flower has only accumulated 600 H.U., and therefore it has not accumulated enough H.U. to become a mature boll.

Table 1. Accumulated Heat Units (H.U.) from August 1, August 5, August 10, August 15 , August 20, and August 25 to September 23, 2009

	Date					
	August 1	August 5	August 10	August 15	August 20	August 25
Accumulated Heat Units	875	806	702	600	485	378

Pink Bollworms

During the last month we have caught a total of 8 pink bollworms in a trap that was located approximately 10 miles east of the Gaines County Park (We have not caught any moths in the other traps that I have been monitoring throughout the county). These low numbers do not represent a problem nor does it require an insecticide application. However, it does indicate that pink bollworms are present in the area and growers need to monitor their non-Bt fields. Cutting bolls and inspecting them is the best way to monitor your fields for pink bollworm populations. Bolls that are 30 days old and rock hard in firmness are generally immune to newly hatched pink bollworm larvae. Small pink bollworm larvae have difficulty entering the more mature bolls and surviving in the dry fibers. Insecticide or pheromone treatment decisions should be based primarily on boll sampling and percent boll infestation. Collect and examine 40 to 50 small bolls per field. Newly set bolls about the size of a quarter should be pulled from the plant and carefully cut and examined for pink bollworms. Newly infested bolls have a small clear bump or wart on the inside of the bur wall at the site where the larva entered the boll. The developing lint surrounding the wart is depressed or sunken in to accommodate the wart. The tiny, threadlike white worm can be found in the depressed area. The black head and

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movement of the larvae will make them easier to spot. Sampling bolls this size indicates the current status of the infestation. Bolls which have been infested for several days are much easier to spot. The larvae are larger, fecal material is easily seen, and the feeding damage is more extensive. For more information on pink bollworms please refer to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service "Pink Bollworm Management in Texas" publication, which can be found on the Texas AgriLife Extension Bookstore website at <https://agrilifebookstore.org>

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