

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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tara.johnson@ag.tamu.edu
THANK YOU

COTTON

Boy is it cold! Even though we have good soil moisture, potentially better than we have had in a very long time, the soil is telling us it is not time to plant. The absolute minimum soil temp in the seed zone is 60°F. However, these plants may grow very slowly, roots can be damaged, they are more susceptible to pests, and if the seed has any germination issues this will make it worse. A much better target is 68°F at the 2 inch mark and 70°F at 6 inch along with a favorable forecast. Many of you are getting the emails from Scott Fuchs and he is right on point. Tracking both the Mesonet and thermometers out in the field, the Mesonet is currently reading considerably higher than my thermometers. This morning, 5/9, my thermometers in a bedded field in the middle of the row were 51°F at 2 inches and 57°F at 6 inches. In the unplowed ground, more similar to the Mesonet, they were 53°F and 63°F. The Mesonet showed 69°F and 71°F. Also keep in mind that a seed needs 50-80 DD60's to germinate and the longer it takes to get a full stand, the greater the reduction in potential yield. Our immediate forecast doesn't look promising, everyday you can wait will allow the ground to warm up. Also, be sure to plant your highest quality/germinating seed first. Also, keep in mind that if you are planting no-till or into a considerable amount of residue, the soil will be even cooler. If we do not get a rain this week and you plant and turn your pumps on, you will hit that seed with a shot of 58° -62° water. I highly encourage everyone to check your soil temp before getting started.

So what does all of this mean? It basically means you stand a much higher risk of damaging the root system at emergence which will have an effect on the crop throughout the rest of the growing season. The following was taken from [Cotton Physiology Today April, 2007](#).

ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT
BRAD EASTERLING
EA-IPM
GLASSCOCK, REAGAN, UPTON COUNTIES
PO Box 299
GARDEN CITY, TX 79739
432-354-2381 (o)
940-256-1524 (M)



This picture is a close-up view of a seedling injured by chilling. The root tip meristematic tissue is dead, which results in the brown color. In many cases, the root tissue behind the dead root tip will be enlarged. Presumably, this results from a buildup of food reserves mobilized to the root meristematic tissue for growth. However, with a dead tip, these materials are not used and, therefore, accumulate.



Cotton seedlings subjected to chilling temperatures (A) compared to seedlings not chilled (B) during imbibition from a study conducted by Hopper and Burke. Note the absence of normal taproot growth of the seedlings in A. Seedlings in A and B were exposed to the same temperature (86°F) with the exception of the first six hours of imbibition in which seedlings in A were exposed to chilling temperatures of 40°F.

Photos: N. Hopper and J. Burke

WIREWORMS



Wireworm

I have fielded a tremendous number of calls on wireworms this season, which is not unusual considering the number of acres of sorghum and haygrazer that we had last summer. Our seed treatments that contain a pesticide will do a good job of controlling wireworm except under the highest pest pressure. I have included a link to a [trial](#) conducted by an agent up in Plainview comparing seed treatments on thrips. I would expect comparable



Darkling Beetle

A couple of things to keep in mind if you do have wireworms present, make sure the soil is warm. You want to give those seedlings the opportunity to take off and grow and establish a root system. Secondly, be on the lookout for darkling beetles. These are the adults of the false wireworm and they have been known to clip seedlings off at the ground. Even to the point of replanting.

WHEAT

This current wheat crop has a tremendous amount of yield potential this year. If we can avoid these severe storms that keep moving across Texas. Many folks have noticed the crop appears to be maturing earlier this year. A lot of this has to do with leaf rust finally moving in. I have not said much to this point because this crop is far enough along (soft-hard dough) and the price is not there to spend anymore money on it. Especially if you don't own your own combine, we can take what we've got, do alright, and rotate our ground.

***Turnrow Meeting time has changed from 9am to 8am.**

TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 4	8:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, June 5	8:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop
Tuesday, June 11	8:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, June 12	8:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop

CORN/SORGHUM

Corn and Sorghum are looking good at this point, just growing a little slow. Here shortly we should really see them take off. We are a little behind on heat units, but as you know, we will catch up. The bigger concern will be avoiding the high temps during pollination.

RESULT DEMONSTRATION

I've got several trials put together for this year, but I could sure use about 2 more irrigated locations. Let me know if you are interested.