

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

July 31, 2020

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If you would like to be added to
our newsletter mailing list please
email
erica.rauschuber@ag.tamu.edu
THANK YOU

GCJLA Dove Hunt—Wednesday
September 16, 2020
(please register by September 10)

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)
[HTTPS://GLASSCOCK.AGRILIFE.ORG/](https://glasscock.agrilife.org/)
[IPM/](https://www.facebook.com/stlawrenceipm/)
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COTTON

It feels as though the dog days of summer have arrived earlier than normal as this exceptionally dry summer following a wet spring again is leaving everyone thinking about what could have been. Temperatures have moderated a bit over the past couple of weeks allowing this crop to catch its breath a bit, however we will be back above 100°F next week and for the foreseeable future with no rain in sight.

The vast majority of fields that are blooming are at or very near cutout at this time. This is a couple of weeks earlier than we would generally like, but on the other end of the spectrum we still have fields out there which have not yet begun blooming. For these fields they still have time if they can put on first blooms within the next week this will give them a 3-3 1/2 week bloom period before our average final bloom date. That will be plenty for these fields, especially with the forecast.



Stinkbug Nymphs

I have seen some fields with a lighter load of squares and bolls than I would like at this point in time. Much of this is due to the extreme heat and the handful of fleahoppers. Generally if we have a few fleahoppers we can still set more squares than they can feed on, but this year it appears the heat has been getting much of what is left in some instances. Fortunately, as cotton begins to bloom they will generally shift to feeding on pollen. Stinkbugs remain few and far between at this time, but the one stinkbug per field that I am finding seems to be in more and more fields. I have also noticed a little damage in a handful of bolls the last couple of days. It is definitely time to start checking fields on a regular basis for stinkbugs and bollfeeding. Moth trap counts have been basically zero up to this point in the season, even in our traps next to corn. Quite a few of our corn fields appear to have less bollworm larva and damage compared to previous years. This being said, we have picked up a little damage in a non-Bt plot near Garden City. Although we have not had much of a problem here with bollworm resistance I would still be aware and keep an eye out.



Adult Stinkbug

Fortunately, most everyone has done a good job of keeping fields clean this season. Of course it is always easier when it never rains. Now that today is the deadline for making Dicamba applications over the top of cotton (7/31) we must use alternative chemistries.

SCOUTING PROGRAM

As is normally the case, now that we are entering the period of stinkbug concern two-a-days and school are starting back up. We are losing our scouts for the year but appreciate all of the hard work Shay and Logan have done this year. Thank you for being a part of the program we wish them good luck on everything they will accomplish this year.

SORGHUM

A handful of sorghum fields are looking good at this time and should continue to be checked for stinkbugs and headworms. You might start looking at Plan B for most all of the remaining fields. Fields can be left standing for no-till/strip-till, plowed under, grazed or baled. If fed keep nitrates in mind. They are generally not an issue around here but may be during drought. High nitrate levels occur during drought when the plant stops growing but the root system continues to take up nitrates from the soil. Levels will be higher if the field has been fertilized recently. The level is also higher lower in the plant than up at the top. Unlike prussic acid it will not dissipate out if cut for hay and left to cure. I can send off samples if you are concerned.

Concho Valley/St. Lawrence Audio Updates

Haley Kennedy in Runnels and Tom Green Counties and myself are currently recording a weekly audio pest report. One of the ways to receive this Concho/St. Lawrence Audio Pest Report is through a text alert. Here is what you do:

You can sign up for text by going to: <https://www.texasinsects.org/signup-texts.html> and fill out the signup box for "Concho St. Lawrence"

It will ask whether you are a producer, consultant, industry, or other. We sure would appreciate this information to know who all is listening. Previous audio files can be found at <https://www.texasinsects.org/southern-high-plains-pest-news.html>

TURNROW MEETINGS

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