

Plains Pest Management News

August 31, 2012

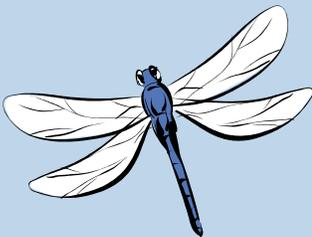
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Inside this issue:

Cotton

Sorghum



Cotton

Cotton is developing rapidly with many fields now having open bolls. Most fields have shed squares and small bolls and have retained all bolls with 450 heat units or more. Boll set on fruiting branches in irrigated cotton is very good overall with most first position bolls retained in the lower and middle positions of the plant. Late planted or heavily irrigated still have two nodes above white flower with bolls that are easily cut with a knife in the upper portion of the plant.

Cotton bollworm infestations remain very light in most fields that are non-Bt. Fields that have reached full "cut out" where square density has fallen to zero are very difficult for small bollworm larvae to establish.

Whiteflies are abundant in some area cotton, but so far populations are not high enough to consider treatment.

Lygus bug populations have increased in some fields. In most cases infestations have remained below threshold treatment level of 2 per 3 row feet.

Cotton fleahopper numbers have greatly increased over the past two weeks. It has not been uncommon to find 1 to 5 fleahopper adults and nymphs per plant. If these populations occurred earlier in the season it would be a great concern. Fleahoppers mainly damage small squares and will have no impact on the bolls that are currently retained on the plant at this time. The reason I have mentioned that fleahopper counts are so high is that the immature stage "nymphs" can easily be confused with Lygus bug nymphs. If one has a 10x hand lens the small nymphs can be examined. The Lygus nymphs have a small black dot in

dorsal side, while the cotton fleahopper does not.

Beneficials remain excellent in cotton at this time with spiders the dominate species. Also observed have been big eyed bugs, pirate bugs, assassin bugs, lacewing larvae, damsel bugs and lady beetles.

Sorghum

Sorghum ranges from late whorl to bloom to hard dough grain close to harvest.

Corn earworm and fall armyworm (headworms) continue to be found infesting area sorghum in the milk to hard dough stage. Common counts for beat bucket samples have been 0 to 2 larvae per 20 heads and average 1 per 20 heads. These larvae have generally ranged from 1/4 to 5/8 inch in length. If all larvae found were greater than 1/2 inch in length, the economic threshold at \$14/cwt. and a control cost of \$8/acre would be 1.5 larvae per 20 heads. This is a rather low treatment threshold, but is driven this low because of the high grain price.

Banks grass mites have declined due to feeding on colonies by six spotted thrips. In some fields only the old feeding damage can be found with no mites present.

Sorghum midge generally remain very light. Fields that are blooming now and over the next week should be scouted closely for sorghum midge on a daily basis.

In mature grain bird damage has been moderate to heavy in some field locations.

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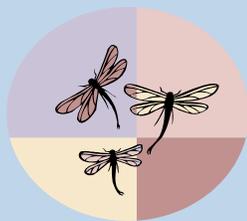
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