

## Plains Pest Management News

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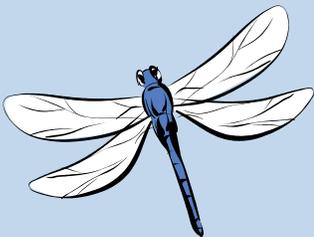


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### General

This year has been much different than our previous two springs. Most of our area has not had any significant rainfall events since this last winter. Several weeks ago the Claytonville area had a two inch plus rain, but the area receiving rain was not widespread. The other problem we have had to endure through spring was the high winds often exceeding 50 mph. This created problems for pre-watering and watering after crops emerged. The high winds over the past 1 1/2 months have made it difficult for herbicide application, especially for those needing to use the contact herbicide "Roundup". Now we are having to contend with 100 degree temperatures and windy conditions. This has made it very difficult to keep up with water demands for corn and cotton. Without adequate moisture it is difficult for plants to take advantage of the excessive heat units we are accumulating.

### Corn

Most of the corn we are monitoring is Bt hybrid, usually with stacked genetics, so whorl infesting larvae have not been present. This week field scouts have reported

seeing a number of corn earworm eggs on leaves, but so far larvae have not been found.

Banks grass mites have been observed in some area corn fields. Colonies have been small and mostly found on the

### Cotton

Cotton ranges from first true leaf to seven true leaves. Of course there is a lot of cotton that never germinated and then died from lack of rainfall. With all this heat and drying winds, our crop is somewhat delayed. Where growers have been able to keep up with irrigation requirements we are right on time.

Thrips have been the dominate pest found in cotton so far this year. Populations have not been as bad as usual and most counts have been far below the treatment threshold of an average one per true leaf. Leaf curling is common, but only a portion of this is due to thrips and the rest has been due to blowing sand.

Scattered spider mite infestations have also been found in area cotton fields. The infesting mite appears to be the two-spotted spider mite. This is a pest we will need to watch over the growing season.

southwest, south and southeast field margins. If hot, dry conditions persist this could become a major problem by July.

## Texas AgriLife Extension Service

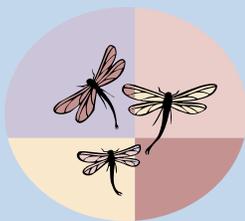
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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES