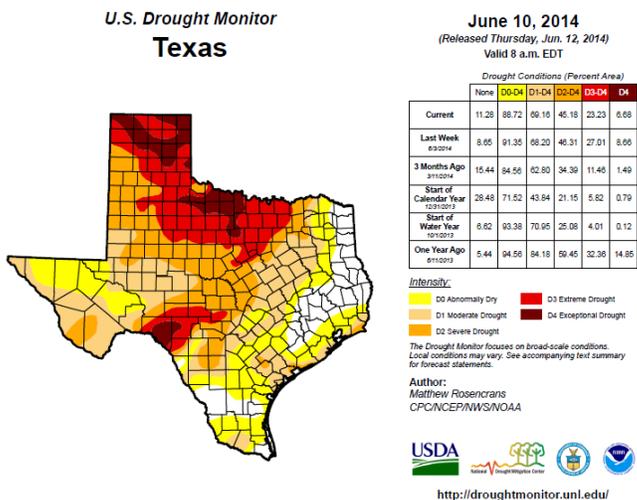


JUNE 18, 2014

General Status

Since our last newsletter there have not been any major pest issues as most have been quiet and fairly hard to find in the field. Additional rain events, sometimes with scattered hail and other severities, have blessed our area again. The rains solved for a short time any potential seed bed and seed depth placement issues for dryland plantings. Meanwhile, we have been very busy through the area assessing the viability of cotton plants, stands, and ultimately the profitability of whole fields. Several irrigated cotton fields, especially from Plainview north, have been justly zeroed by insurance. Producers do not seem quite as grumpy about a needed replant due to their soil moisture situation and outlook and fields that have survived the 1000 pin-prick spring with strong enough stands to remain profitable have begun to recover.



Replant Options

Sorghum looks to take the vast lead as our number one replant or secondary crop option this season with late corn being a distant second. These are far from the only options available to producers. Each choice comes with a full list of advantages, disadvantages, and management options, all far too long to list in depth here. I urge producers to utilize “2014 Alternative Crop Options after Failed Cotton and Late-Season Crop Planting for the Texas South Plains”, a publication authored by Dr. Calvin Trostle and Dr. Mark Kelley. This publication is available online at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/>

Replant Burndown Options

When it comes to cleaning out a failed cotton field to make way for a secondary crop there are several good options that do not necessarily involve a plow and the potential soil moisture loss that opening the ground up deeply could cause. If that secondary crop can utilize differing herbicide MOA (modes of action) from cotton this could even be viewed as an opportunity to clean out some of those pesky volunteer cotton plants and glyphosate resistant weeds.

Earlier today Dr. Wayne Keeling, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Weed Scientist in Lubbock, and I put our heads together on the subject. When I asked Dr.

Keeling for his list of preferred herbicides

that could both cleanout any surviving

cotton and get a healthy kick in on the

flushing weed population here is what he

stated, "There are some pretty good op-

tions out there for this. From the top I

would have to list products such as ET, Aim,



and Paraquat. They can really do a nice job on young cotton, those small plants, but they might have trouble if the

cotton or weeds have any size to them. One that producers might not think of right away would be to use Ignite in this situation, if the failed cotton is Flex only.

Ignite could also catch a lot of weeds glyphosate could be missing if you catch

those weeds small enough. I really like the idea of mixing Roundup with Sharpen if

producers will be planting sorghum. Those two products really seem to heat each

other up and you get two weeks' worth of unique residual that can buy you some

time to get your sorghum started without too much weed pressure. Now all of

your cotton control will be from Sharpen in this situation. If everything is mixed

right with a good rate, it can get those seedlings pretty well, even if there is some

size to them."



Dr. Keeling and I both agree that getting some residual herbicide out for sorghum with this expected treatment should be recommended. By now, much of our pre-plant herbicides for the failed cotton will likely start losing effectiveness and we should not be able to count on them to control weeds in our new sorghum field, especially if we intend for the sorghum to come up through it. For our sorghum, we will need new and additional options. If Sharpen is applied producers should get the described two weeks of unique residual weed control. This would be my minimum residual recommendation. Mixing other products such as Milo Pro, Atrazine, or even Dual with any of the ET, Aim, paraquat, or Ignite treatments would get us another layer of residual weed protection. With choosing Milo Pro or Atrazine for a mix, we would certainly be taking advantage of an opportunity to hit these weeds with that differing MOA.

Dr. Keeling did go on to caution producers about considerations about this potential treatment and its implications for next season, “We are making this application fairly late in the growing season and it is possible treatments could easily slip an additional few weeks. Very high amounts of Atrazine carryover into next season is a real possibility. I would expect producers to either use a lighter rate of Atrazine, or just use Milo Pro to start with.”

Cotton

Our program cotton ranged in growth stage from regrowth (damaged and re-growing from alternate growing points equivalent to 2nd true leaf stage) to beautiful, vibrant fields already at pinhead square stage. Thrips pressure



has been light, ranging from none found to 0.84 per plant. Despite some relatively low thrips numbers, we have recommended treatment for thrips in several of our recovering cotton fields. These fields just need a break from anything else chewing on them to recover without delay. For these damaged fields a working

threshold could be 0.5 thrips per true leaf stage or less in place of the full 1 thrips per true leaf stage. We have not noted any fleahopper populations or early fruit loss in cotton at this time.



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We're on the air...

"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:00—7:00 AM
& from 12:30—1:00
PM on the 1090 Agri
-Plex Report on 1090
AM KVOP-
Plainview.

"IPM Wednesdays" from
1:00-2:30 PM on The
Fox Talk 950 Ag
Show. Fox Talk 950
AM - Lubbock.

Sorghum and Corn

These two crops continue to look very good. Many producers are looking at finishing fertilizer applications as soon as time allows. Our stages from our program fields this week ranged from "I suspect it will be planted by this next week" to V10(X) with most early sorghum coming in at V5 to V8. We have been picking up some small colonies of BGM (Banks Grass Mites) in the Edmonson area, but colonies were very small, only on the lowest two leaves, and lightly populated.

Dr. Pat Porter, District 2 Entomologist, has been running very high FAW (Fall armyworm) moth trap numbers for several weeks now at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center in Lubbock. Pat extrapolated his trap numbers from early this week to project a weekly count of 1,264. The three year average for FAW trap numbers per week should be 32. Gary Cross, CEA Hale, is trapping FAW in Hale County. This last week he trapped 130 FAW at Half-way. This is high and well above our average also. It is expected that these FAW have been migrating north on our storm or warm fronts. We can expect to start finding damage and additional moths soon. Today one FAW egg mass was found in corn near Edmonson, but no major FAW whorl feeding has been noted in sorghum or non Bt corn in our program so far.

Non Bt corn and sorghum whorl feeding from FAW is rarely economic, but does severely mar the plants and provide a food source to build an economic FAW population from. It would be the resulting successive generations of FAW feeding on sorghum heads, corn ears, and cotton bolls that would be very problematic. The sheer size of the moth population that appears to be heading our way looks very daunting for our now late crop of grain and cotton. I remain confident we can achieve good control if this potential FAW blitzkrieg truly materializes, if fields are well scouted, pest properly identified, and the proper product is used at the proper time.

Please call or come by with any questions,

Blayne