

## Plains Pest Management News

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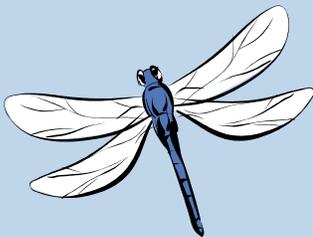


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General

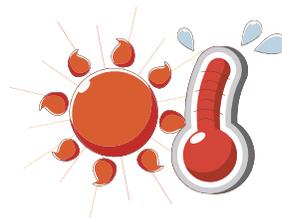
Cotton

Corn



### General

Hot, dry, windy conditions continue to plague our region. Current forecast indicates 100°F plus days for the near future with minimal prospects for rain. Center pivots run continuously with application rates of 1 1/2 inch per pass. With high winds and above normal temperatures, crop water needs exceed that which can be applied. Our crops have had excellent heat units since planting but have not been able to take full advantage for growth without adequate moisture available. Current high temperature forecast for Plainview and vicinity are as follows: Friday 105°F, Saturday 107°F, Sunday 104°F, Monday 102°F and Tuesday 101°F, with no rain indicated.



### Corn

Corn ranges from mid-whorl to late - whorl stage and a few fields are approaching tassel. Banks grass mites continue to be found on lower leaves. Overall percent leaf damage has been around 5% or less. So far the  
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### Cotton

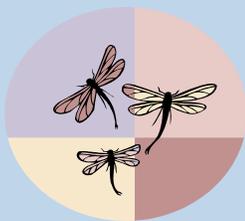
Early planted cotton is now entering squaring stage and many fields should have squares easily visible next week. Thrips are still present in all cotton, but damage from this pest has been minimal compared to wind and sand damage to the crop. As cotton begins to square it is time to begin scouting for the cotton fleahopper. Adults of this pest are about 1/8 inch in length, oval shaped and pale green in color. Immature of the cotton fleahopper are wingless, but have a similar shape and color, but only smaller. When fleahoppers hatch they lack the green color, but after feeding on the plant tissue, they soon become pale green. The nymphs often hide in plant "hairs" in the terminal area and this is where they cause damage by using their piercing, sucking mouthpart to feed on "pinhead" size squares. After a square has been fed on, it turns yellow, then brown, then black and falls from the plant leaving a small scar at the location where it was attached to the plant. This pest can be sampled by whole plant inspection, beat sheet or beat bucket methods. Treatment for this pest is based on a combination of percent square loss counts and presence of significant populations to cause the square loss. Square loss due to blowing sand or other physiological problems can simulate fleahopper damage. As more fields enter (continued pg. 2)

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### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES

(Cotton continued from page 1)

squaring, we will report our findings concerning populations in Hale and Swisher Counties.

Other pests to be on the look out for as we move into the growing season are: cotton aphids, beet armyworms, fall armyworms and two-spotted spider mites.

(Corn continued from page 1)

main beneficial found feeding in colonies has been the western flower thrips. As populations increase, hopefully more predators will move into fields to suppress populations.

Dr. Pat Porter, Extension Entomologist in Lubbock has reported finding infestations of beet armyworms in whorl stage corn. Also, fall armyworms have been reported in corn and sorghum. Beet and fall armyworm infestations have been confined to non-Bt corn where corn is concerned.

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