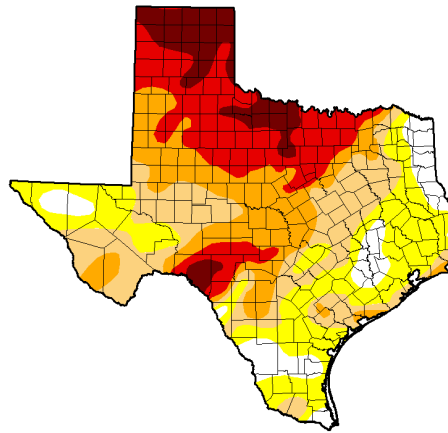


JUNE 6, 2014

## General Status

It has been an interesting week, mostly dealing with the side effects of the Memorial Day Weekend rain events. While no one dares wish that we had avoided the rains, it has come with a plethora of troubles cotton stands and establishment. Despite the volume of good rain we have received, it does not appear to be lasting as long as most thought it could. The effects of the prolonged drought we are still in can be found with any moisture probe or yet unplanted dryland field seed bed evaluation.



## Weeds

The rains certainly flushed a ready and waiting weed population. After our crop finally reaches a point we can consider established these weeds will be enemy number one.



# Cotton

Much of our germinated cotton seedlings were in a very vulnerable stage when the rains came having not yet emerged. The cool, damp conditions, thick crusts, and wireworm damage have taken their toll. I estimate that 70% of Swisher County and 30% of Hale County irrigated cotton fields have either failed to establish or experienced serious stand reduction. Tractor tires turned rapidly this as fields were scratched, re-planted, or, as is the case for most dry-land, planted.



As of today, our program cotton fields ranged from just planted to 2<sup>nd</sup> true leaf stage. All through the week thrips were moving in fairly high numbers. It was not until June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> that we picked up any significant numbers of thrips in cotton.



Adult thrips are straw colored insects 1/16 to 1/12 inch long. The wings are fringed and held flat directly over the body when at rest. Immature thrips look similar to the adults but have no wings and are somewhat lighter in color. All thrips have rasping mouthparts including a single mandible that the thrips uses to scrape and jab host plant tissue. The thrips then consume the resulting 'bleeding' of plant juices. Thrips often feed in the more sheltered and tender terminal or growing point of the cotton plant, requiring very close inspections to

acquire an accurate population count. The ensuing damage causes scaring and malformation of the young leaves at a time when plants need healthy leaves for energy and a good start.

The economic threshold (ET) for thrips remains at one thrips per true leaf stage, but there are multiple factors to consider in conjunction with that threshold. The presence or absence of immature thrips should represent the primary additional consideration. The



presence of immature thrips indicates that the thrips are reproducing in the field and will be there causing damage for some time. Some other factors include the recognition of light thrips damage, plant stage, plant health, and predator populations.



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**WEB**

[http://  
hale.agrilife.org](http://hale.agrilife.org)

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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.***

## Corn & Sorghum

Our planted corn and sorghum continue to look very good. Our oldest corn fields were at V8 stage while sorghum was at V6. We continue to see very few notable pests in these crops yet. Dr. Pat Porter has reported a three times above normal for the month of May fall armyworm trap catches. If this information can be translated into the field, we should start picking up on whirl feeding from the FAW very soon.

Please call or come by with any questions,

*Blayne Reed*