

Plains Pest Management News

September 2, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 10



Inside this issue:

Cotton

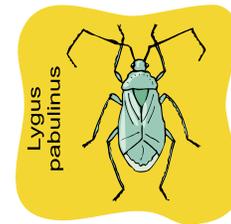
Sorghum

Cotton

Cotton is rapidly approaching maturity. Nearly all fields have some open cotton bolls. A few drought stressed fields are around 50 percent open bolls. Hot, dry weather has continued to stress cotton. Some growers have terminated irrigation. Where irrigation capacity is better, additional irrigation will be needed to mature late set bolls. This year we have no deep moisture to carry the crop through September, except for drip irrigation systems. Center pivot systems will continue watering for a while where yield potentials can justify the additional water. The lower temperatures (mid 80's) forecast for next week should lower stress levels and reduce afternoon wilting.

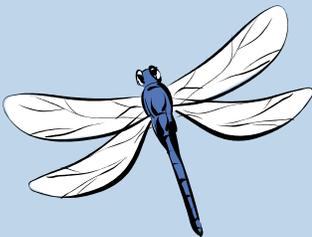
Overall insect pressure in cotton has been slight. Lygus have increased in some row watered and drip irrigation fields. Most of the Lygus observed have been in the nymph stages, with an occasional adult observed. The threshold feet after peak bloom is 2 per 3 row average. This threshold must be considered when a significant number of small bolls are available for the Lygus to damage. Damage to larger bolls is usually minimal. Many fields which have undergone stress have

very few small bolls which would be susceptible to attack, therefore even though Lygus are present an insecticide application would not be justified. Small bolls are ones that are 12 days old or younger. These are the ones most susceptible to Lygus damage.



A few beet armyworms and cotton bollworms continue to be found in area cotton, but beneficials and heat have kept outbreaks from occurring.

A new thrips pest has been reported from Hale County. It is Kurtomathrips morilli. Damage from this thrips looks very similar to spider mite damage in cotton. Most of the thrips found on the leaf are wingless. Damage is most prevalent in drought stressed cotton, so as water is cut off to cotton watch for signs of damage. With heavy populations of Kurtomathrips premature defoliation can occur. So far, I have not observed any infestations by this new thrips species in fields I have inspected.

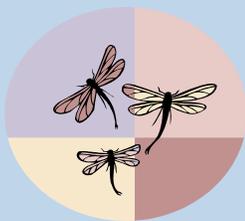


Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Hale County Office
225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, Texas 79072

Tel. 806.291.5274
Fax 806.291.5266
E-Mail: gcronholm@ag.tamu.edu

Greg Cronholm,
Extension Agent—IPM
Emeritus



We're on the
Web
Hale-tx.tamu.edu



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES



This is how hot & dry it is in Hale County.

Sorghum

Fall armyworm and beet armyworm have been reported attacking whorl stage sorghum. Control may be justified if leaf area is reduced by 30 percent or more. Also one should consider the ability of having the insecticide penetrating into the whorl where the larvae are feeding. Chemigation has been the most effective method of treating larval infestations in the whorl.

Fall armyworm and corn earworm have been found infesting sorghum heads. Populations have been variable. In many cases the predators in the heads have kept populations below threshold. Continue to scout for head worms up to hard dough and when grain is full red.

Sorghum midge continues to be found in blooming sorghum, so scout for this pest daily around noon time. Threshold tables can be found in our B-1220 Managing Insect & Mite Pests of Texas Sorghum.

https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_search.cfm



Educational programs by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.