

MAY 30, 2013

General Status

Hale & Swisher Counties were richly blessed this past Memorial Day weekend. A mix of official recordings, producer reports, and information from pivot track indicate that the area received somewhere between 3.5" and 6" of rain with most areas coming in between the 4" and 5" mark. This was an answer to multiple prayers as the rain fell smoothly and gently with limited wind and hail events.



While the rain may have been a little too late to significantly help our wheat for grain production, summer crop dryland production has been placed back into the realm of possibility and fields with limited irrigation capacity now have a decent chance of getting a crop started. The rains were not without some down sides. The cool, damp environment creates a fresh set of problems to keep an eye out for. I believe most of us will make the trouble trade compared to the dry situations the area was facing just last week.

Cotton

The status of emerging cotton is highly variable at this time. In the area from Plainview north through Swisher County I would estimate that 90% or more of the irrigated cotton and 35% of the dryland cotton had been planted prior to the rain events. Many of these fields are now in a precarious situation. In this area I have confirmed some chilling injury to pre-emerged cotton seedling's root system from the cold front earlier this month. Now add to that problem all of the pitfalls that 5 days of cool, wet weather can do to cotton seedlings and we have some decisions to make very soon. I am seeding a menagerie of cotton seedling diseases, prolonged exposure to wireworm damage, cold soil temperatures, waterlogged plants, dryland that now looks too deep, and thick crusts standing between us and stand establishment. There are likely some cotton field stands that will not establish in these situations, while some others will. Telling which field is which this next week can be the difference between a profitable year and a tough struggle.



I would estimate that the area from Plainview south through the rest of Hale County only had 60% of the irrigated cotton and almost no dryland cotton planted before the Memorial Day rains. Most of these fields are already in better shape compared to



the northern fields due to the lack of chilling injury. These planted fields have still faced the increase of seedling disease and thick crust that the cool, wet conditions and rain caused. Evaluations for profitable stands will still need to be made but I feel the vast majority of these fields will establish with the usual management practices employed.

Fields yet to be planted are in danger of being late. I feel fairly confident that with the forecasted weather, moisture available, and producers ability to make quick turns once they can enter their fields that these fields will not be too late. I would be ok with a last irrigated cotton planting date of June 3rd or 4th and I see no problem with the last cotton planting date allowed by insurance for dryland cotton. These fields should emerged quite rapidly given our conditions.

Stand Evaluations for the most damaged cotton fields:

As we evaluate cotton for establishment this week please keep in mind that as long as a seedling has a healthy terminal growing point once conditions return to normal, that plant will be able to survive, produce yield, and remain profitable. If enough of these surviving seedlings are fairly evenly distributed though the field and reach a bare minimum population of 27,000 plants per acre, then that field has the potential to remain profitable. Fields without at least 27,000 surviving plants per acre have been proven to be unprofitable. As evaluations are made this next week about crop destruction, please remember to evaluate and factor any possible chilling injury that might have altered the root system.



light chilling injury to an otherwise healthy cotton seedling (May 20)

Wheat



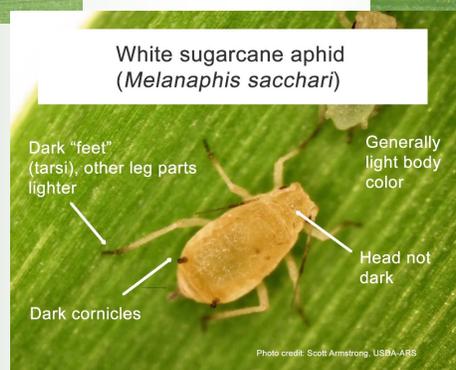
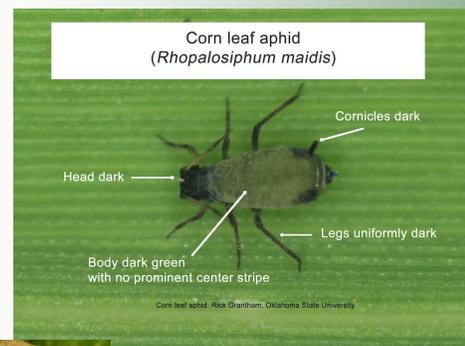
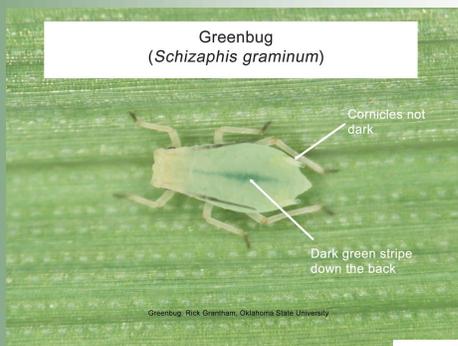
There will be some wheat harvested for grain in our area. I am still finding grain filling in the dough stage, but there are some blank seed spots in the heads, mostly as a result of drought. It is time, especially post rain, to start finding some type of rust or smut diseases in wheat, but I have seen nothing economic for diseases or insects this week in wheat.

Corn, Sorghum, and hay crops

While the cool, damp conditions have been detrimental to seedling cotton, they have been a boon for any grain production. All planted corn and sorghum fields in our scouting program are really doing well. Our oldest corn is at V7 while our youngest is yet to be planted. Sorghum is just a tick behind at V5 and yet to be planted. Please be aware that these older stages are pushing the upper limits of several herbicide application labels. I find no pests of interest in either corn or sorghum this week.

Be on the lookout for:

The white sugarcane aphid continues to make news for our friends in the Lower Rio Grande Valley up through the Coastal Bend and into Louisiana. To date, this sorghum pest has not been documented west of I-35, but that is not thought to be a constraining barrier. Entomologist in those southern areas have been reporting large numbers of elate (winged) forms of these aphids which indicate an ability to move great distances carried via storms, warm fronts, and southerly winds. We are fairly confident that **IF** this pest appears in our area sorghum and sorghum like crops, we will be able to control it **IF** we maintain a good field scouting and alert program. Typically (viewed with a very short history of study) this aphid will infest Johnson grass before moving into sorghum or a sorghum type crop. Please take a few moments to check some of the soon to be greening up Johnson grass that you may come across in your daily routine for this aphid and report to us here if any are found.



Photos of 2 aphid species typically found on Johnson grass & sorghum compared to the white sugarcane aphid.



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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.

Pest Patrol Hotline

This season the Plains Pest Management Association is joining the Pest Patrol Hotline.

To receive an up to the hour pest alert from us, please sign up with the Pest Patrol. When an important outbreak of economic pests occur, I will give the Pest Patrol a call, leave a report along with my best "to watch for" and recommendations and the Hotline will send you a text alerting you immediately. Respond to the automatic text and get my report. To sign up please follow these steps:

Step one: Register online at www.syngentapestpatrol.com or register via text message by texting the corresponding short code word listed below to **97063**.

Step two: reply to the confirmation text they receive by texting the letter "y", to complete their registration.

Researcher	University or Region	Short Code Word
Blayne Reed	Texas A&M University - Plainview	pestpat1

Please call or come by with any questions,

Blayne Reed