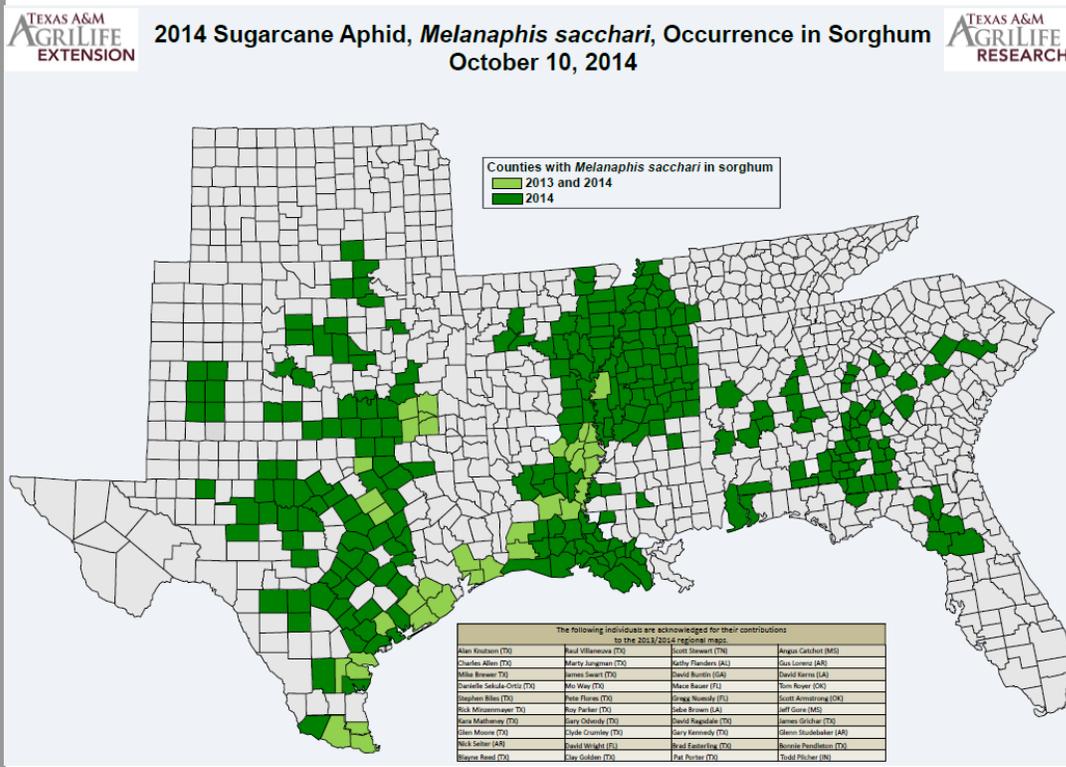


General Status

It has been a few weeks since our last newsletter. Since that time, MOST summer crop pests have put it to bed for the winter. Our cotton has fallen behind again during a cool early September but has taken advantage of some expended heat unit accumulation through late October to creep into a late harvest aid season sucking up all the heat and boll development it can. The “weathermen’s” viewer ratings have taken their annual rise as everyone wants to know how far we are from a killing freeze date. Corn, including our late planted corn, has and is finishing out well. Most early planted sorghum has been harvested while the later planted fields are past economic damage from our ‘usual’ sorghum pests. Unfortunately, the sugarcane aphid has made its unwelcome appearance and is making its presence felt as these later planted sorghum fields dry down for harvest.

Sugarcane Aphid Update / Alert

In early to mid-September we confirmed the presence of this aphid in Hale, Swisher, & Floyd counties. Over the next few weeks, we watched and documented as the sugarcane aphid infested field after field of our program’s late planted sorghum fields. This infestation was sub-economic



and appeared to be isolated to small hot spots within fields.

Very little increase in size of colonies was observed in infested fields yet the aphids continued infesting new fields from east to west across our counties. We remained confident that they would not be an economic problem for a multitude of reasons, one of which being our cooler temperatures but were certainly worth keeping an eye on. For this reason we remain active in scouting late planted sorghum fields for the sugarcane aphid. It is a very good thing we have. This aphid could be growing into a major problem this season. Based upon this aphid's history farther south, they could grow into that problem in just a matter of days.



In the past two weeks I have seen some of our earliest sugarcane aphid infested field, in south-eastern Swisher, increase from small hot spots with 20 to 40 aphids on the lower green leaves to 100% in-field plant infestation at that 20 to 40 aphid per lower leaf level and complete plant coverage from lower leaves to flag leaf coverage in those old hot spots. In those hot spots, we already have desiccated plants and minor lodging.

This increase does not look to be slowing, but rather growing exponentially. Of our program's late sorghum fields, we have 98% of our fields infested at some level today. A number of these fields (I now estimate 20 %) have aphids covering the underside of leaves on the bottom half of all the plants with the old hot spots climbing higher. These fields, with this level of pressure, could be a very serious problem is left unattended while we wait for the fields to dry for harvest. Reports indicate that from this level, the sugarcane aphid can increase to cover the entire plant, head and panicles included, in a matter of days. This would certainly be an economic problem and is very likely to cause harvest problems similar to what occurred in the Lower Rio Grande Valley last year.

I URGE all producers and consultants to take a few minutes and give sorghum and sorghum like hay crops a good walk through looking for these aphids. This weekend I stopped by a field of dryland haygrazer that was green and nearing boot less than a

week ago. Saturday, it had the look of a field that had been 'frosted.' Upon close inspection sugarcane aphids had completely covered the plant causing desiccation and plant death. Lodging had already begun.



Figure 1: Corn Leaf aphid



Figure 2: Yellow Sugarcane aphid



Figure 3: Sugarcane aphid (New invasive)



Figure 4: Greenbug aphid

If your sorghum field is nearing the situation I described earlier and have sugarcane aphids nearing flag leaf you now have three options. You could also only have a few days to act while the crop is a few weeks away from being dry enough for harvest.

1. The action threshold of 40% plants infested with 100 aphids per leaf (average top, middle, and lower) has been reached.

Make the application of Transform @ 1 ounce per acre.

This is our only proven bullet to control this pest for this season, if coverage is good enough (10 GPA ground, 5 GPA air). It is fairly expensive and comes with a 14 day pre-harvest interval. For those not wanting to make this kind of investment this late with grain prices so low, there are options 2 & 3.

2. Harvest early. Take the dock at the elevator rather than loose so much yield to the aphid. This aphid can also cause serious lodging and 'gummy harvest' issues and losses pushing 60% of yield potential.
3. Harvest aid the infested sorghum field. Treatments of Aim or Roundup might help dry the plant faster and leave the aphid with nothing to feed upon. This was tried with limited success in the LRGV in 2013. Aim would certainly act faster.

For haygrazer, option 2 might make the most economic sense.

In our program field in south-eastern Swisher, our producer chose option 2. This field was just days from being ready when the rapid increase in sugarcane aphid numbers was noted. This field was harvested without incident. In our program, we currently have 4 more fields nearing this level of infestation that are a few weeks away from being harvest ready. I will be checking them twice weekly.



2013 sugarcane aphid damage in south Texas.

Cotton Harvest Aid Trial

Cotton has been slow developing this fall and the added heat units of October has been much appreciated. Several fields have been treated already but most area cotton fields are just now nearing readiness for harvest aids just as our night time temperatures look to be staying lower, potentially for good. To aid in your harvest aid decisions, I am including results from our 2014 harvest aid trial. This trial was conducted at Tulia, Texas and was utilized for the Swisher County Cotton Field Day earlier this month. Applications were made slightly before the field was truly harvest aid ready. Treatments used were:

Untreated check

Ethephon 32 FL OZ/A;NIS 0.25 % V/V

Ethephon 32 FL OZ/A;Aim 1 FL OZ/A;COC 1% V/V

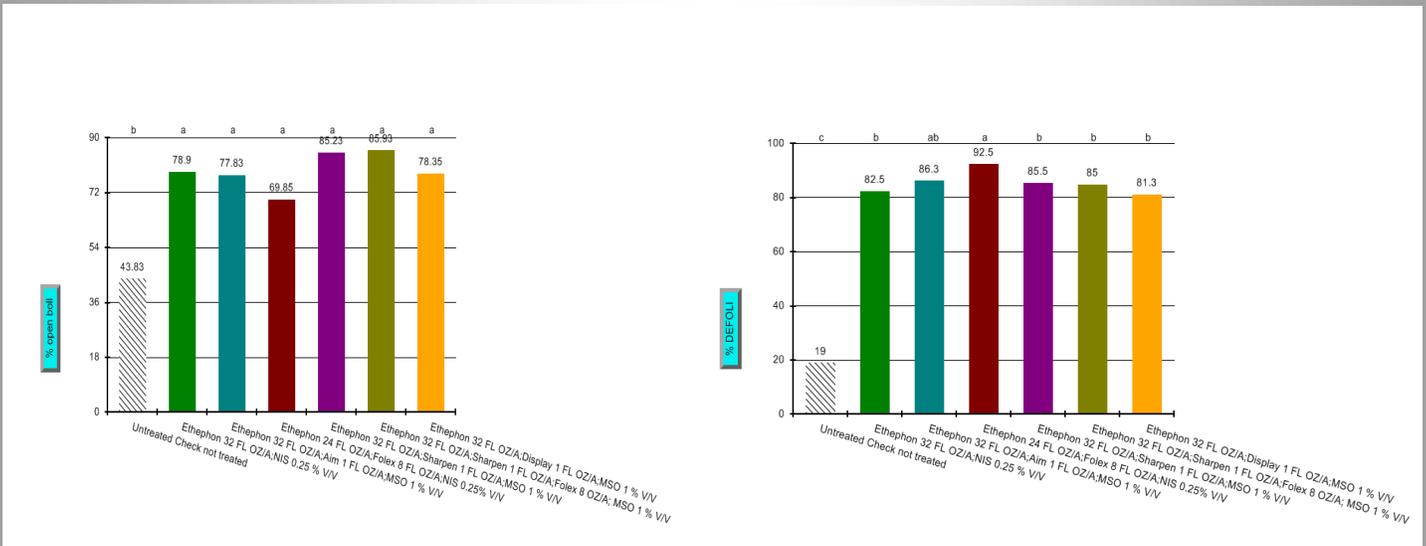
Ethephon 24 FL OZ/A;Folex 8 FL OZ/A;NIS 0.25% V/V

Ethephon 32 FL OZ/A;Sharpen 1 FL OZ/A;MSO 1 % V/V

Ethephon 32 FL OZ/A;Sharpen 1 FL OZ/A;Folex 8 OZ/A; MSO 1 % V/V

Ethephon 32 FL OZ/A;Display 1 FL OZ/A;MSO 1 % V/V

All treatments are listed in this order. This data was collected 17 days after treatment. The following charts show, percent open harvestable bolls, percent leaves defoliated, percent leaves desiccated and clinging to the plant, and percent green leaves still on the plant. Data on regrowth was collected but no differences were found in this trial.



% Open Harvestable Boll

% leaves defoliated



225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072

Tel: 806.291.5267

Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail:

Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

Blog:

<http://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/>

*Pest Patrol Hotline,
registration at:*

www.syngentapestpatrol.com

WEB

<http://hale.agrilife.org>

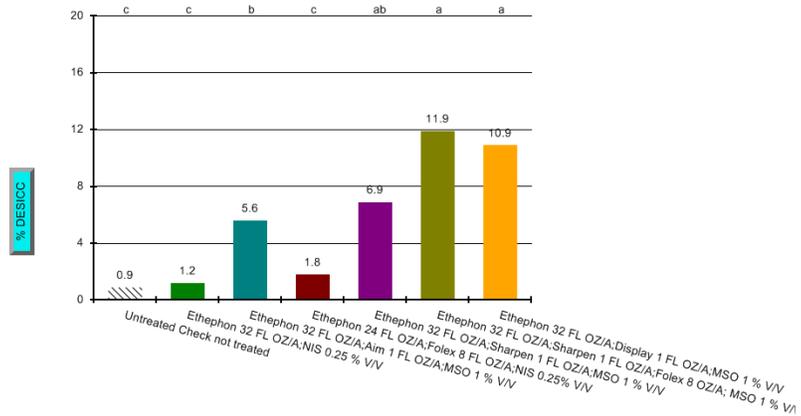
Educational programs by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin.

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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

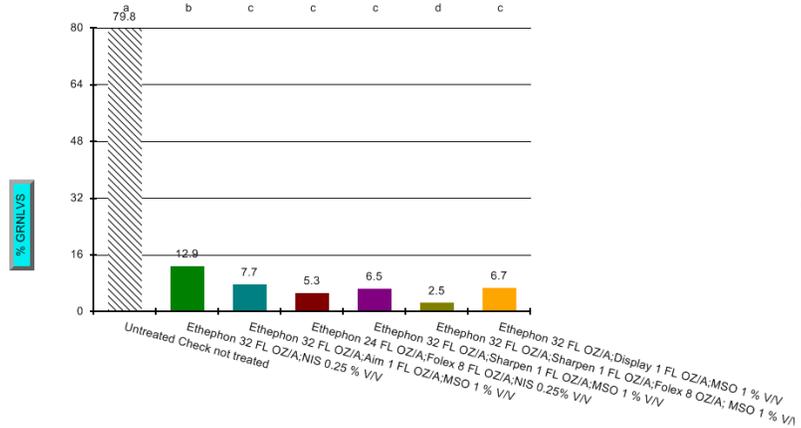
We're on the air...

"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.*



% "stuck leaves"



% green leaves still attached

From this trial and what we have seen in-field so far, there will likely be a need for two harvest aid treatments to prepare this crop for harvest (killing freeze can count as a 2nd treatment).

Good Luck,

Blayne Reed