

Plains Pest Management Newsletter__

News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

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June 18 , 2010

GENERAL

Extensive hail damage was reported from storms this past Mondays, which occurred from Mayfield north to Edmonson and north into Swisher county up to Hwy. 928. Also areas north of Hale Center have reported hail damage to cotton and corn. Early estimates may be as high as 20 to 40,000 acres lost for Hale and Swisher County. It will take several days before evaluations can be made on fields with lighter hail damage. Fields with heavy damage can be determined immediately since very little above ground plant parts remain. In our IPM program areas around Edmonson and Kress we lost about 13 farms.

Where cotton and corn have been completely hailed out we do have some options for replanting to other crops such as corn, sorghum and soybean. Last year sorghum was replanted on much of our hailed out cotton. In Hale and Swisher Co. we can plant a medium maturity sorghum up to June 30 and a early maturity variety up to July 10. Dr. Calvin Trostle compiled an excellent article several years ago titled "2008 Alternative Crop Options After Failed Cotton and Late Season Crop Planting for the Texas South Plains". It can be found on the website (<http://lubbock.tamu.edu>) under the cotton section. If one is considering corn or soybean and water is limited, it would be advisable to look at reduced plant populations to decrease potential for water stress. If one has

questions they may call Scott Adair, County Extension Agent in Hale County or I may be able to assist. Call 291-5267 or 291-5274.

COTTON

High winds, blowing sand and hail have continued to be a problem for area cotton growers. Many fields are now in the 4 to 8 leaf stage. This week squares have been found in a number of area fields. Square counts have ranged from 0.2 to over 1 per plant. In general square retention is good, but some square and terminal damage has been noted from blowing sand. **Cotton fleahoppers** have been observed in weedy areas, but no significant populations have been noted in cotton at this time. As ones cotton enters the squaring stage it is time to shift from thrips scouting to fleahopper scouting and continue to scout up to 1st bloom. This is typically about a 4 week period where it is important to scout for this pest. During this time period we like to maintain square sets above 75%.

Cotton Fleahopper



If fleahoppers are causing square sets to fall below this level then control should be initiated.

One field was observed this past week with a mealybug feeding on the cotton root system. Counts ranged from 1 to 5 bugs per plant. Currently we are not sure of the species or the economic impact.

CORN

Banks grass mites continue to be found, but with high winds, hail and many shredded leaves some fields have experienced a decline. In the past shredded leaves on corn have disrupted mite colonization. We will have to wait to see if this happens this year.

SORGHUM

Even though extensively damaged by hail in some areas, the growing point was at ground level and it should recover. Also remember that sorghum is prone to tillering and should compensate for primary plants lost to hail damage.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperating

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all person with disabilities for any of our meetings. We request that you contact Texas AgriLife Extension (806)291-5274, as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.

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www.tpma.org (TPMA website)

<http://hale-tx.tamu.edu> (Hale County website)

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu> (Lubbock website)