

# PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS



**AgriLIFE EXTENSION**  
Texas A&M System  
*Improving Lives. Improving Texas.*

## Texas AgriLife Extension

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Issue 3

### COTTON

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Fields generally range from 6 leaf to 1/3 grown square. Many fields are now in the second week of squaring. Square retention has typically been good, but a few fields have lost squares due to plant bugs and blowing sand. Sixty mile an hour winds were again recorded this past week in Plainview and high levels of dust and sand made it difficult to see any distance.

can be probably attributed to blowing sand or Lygus adults which migrated into and out of the field.

*Lygus* adults and nymphs have also been found in area cotton. Early instar nymphs can be separated from cotton fleahopper nymphs by the fact that the antennae are darker. Later instar nymphs are easier to separate from fleahoppers because they have a black dot on the top of the abdomen and the fleahoppers are solid green. (see page 2) The highest Lygus counts were 8 per 100 plants in locations adjacent to weedy areas.

*Cotton aphid* populations remain light and scattered. If treating for plant bugs in cotton select a product that will not flare aphids. If aphids are not



found when many different products can be considered, but

one should also weigh the impact on beneficial arthropods.

Some fields already have excellent **beneficials** populations. Crab spiders and hooded beetles are very abundant. Other beneficials noted have been lady beetles, pirate bugs and big eyed bugs.

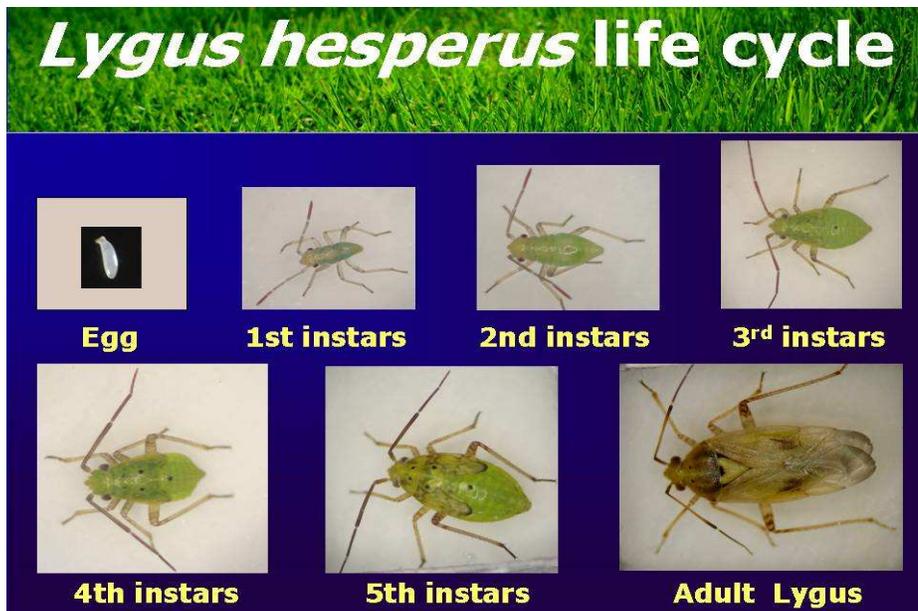
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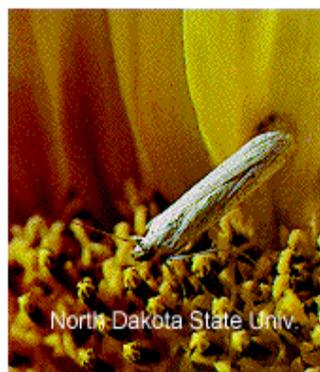
*Cotton fleahoppers* have been found in a number of fields this past week. First and second instar nymphs have been the most common stage observed. Adults have been present, but not in high numbers. Counts have ranged from 0 to 30 per 100 plants. Where populations have been higher square sets have fallen to 78% It is not uncommon to have a wide range of % square set in a field. Some areas of a field may have % square sets in the 70's, while other areas are averaging 92%. When counts are averaged then square sets are acceptable. Some fields have had low % square sets, and no plant bugs present. These losses

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### Sunflowers



Sunflowers began to bloom on June 16 and by Monday June 21 had reached 100% bloom. **Sunflower moths** have been collected in a trap around Hale Center, so growers should monitor fields for this pest. Sunflower moths can be detected by inspecting

blooming heads early in the morning or late in the evening. During the day one can see them flying out in front of them and lighting on a leaf 3 to 5 feet down the row. The adult moth is about 1/2" long, slender and a silver to buff gray color. They are relatively easy to recognize from other moths found in the sunflower field. If moths are found, treatments for control should be initiated at 20 to 25% bloom. A field generally goes from 1 to 5 % bloom to 20% bloom in one day, so be ready to scout fields and make treatment decisions during early bloom.

### Corn & Sorghum

Corn is making excellent progress and most fields are in the late whorl stage. Banks grass mites remain light, but could increase rapidly as the reproductive stage is reached.

Sorghum is in the mid whorl stage, with a few fields recently planted. A number of hailed out cotton fields have been planted to sorghum or corn.

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