

PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS



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Issue 4

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News About Integrated Pest Management in Hale & Swisher Counties

GENERAL

Rains last Sunday and Monday ranged from a trace to 2.5 inches. Many areas received 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches. Currently it is showering across the area, with additional chances of rainfall this weekend.

COTTON

Cotton is rapidly approaching bloom, but none have been observed in IPM program area fields as of this date. All fields are now squaring and percent square sets have ranged from 75% to 100%. Cotton fleahopper infestations are highly variable with counts ranging from 0 to 23 per 100 terminals. The smooth leaf and stem cottons have been more sensitive to plant bug damage and therefore have had higher square losses than slightly hairier cotton with similar fleahopper populations. Crab spiders are abundant in many fields and have been observed with fleahopper nymphs in their clutches. Early square loss can be compensated for by the plant but as we near the bloom period it is good to have percent square sets that approach the carrying capacity of the plant and yield targets.

Lygus bugs continue to be found, but generally infestations remain light. This is probably because with recent rains weeds have remained a suitable host.

We usually see major movement into cotton as fields reach the bloom stage, but if weeds are shredded or die from drought then movement into cotton can occur earlier.

A few cabbage loopers and beet armyworms were observed earlier, but beneficials have eliminated most infestations. Cotton aphids are still not a problem with aphid predators commonly found in area cotton.

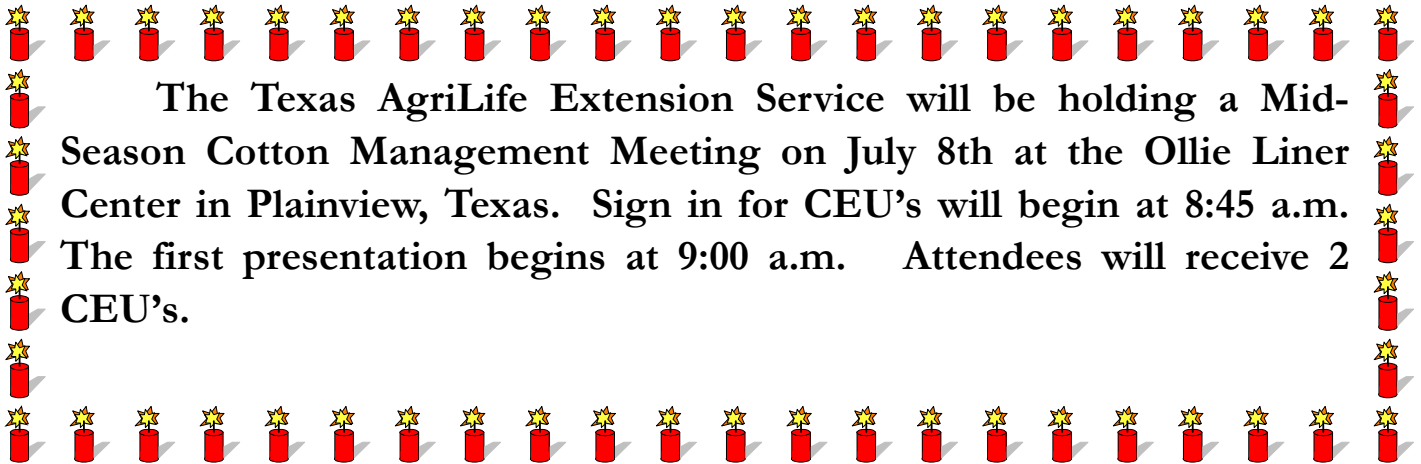
CORN

Early planted corn is now silking and tasseling. As corn enters this stage Banks grass mite damage has been confined to lower leaves and has generally been less than 10% damage.

SUNFLOWER

Continue to scout for sunflower moth infestations as sunflower enters the bloom stage. When a bud begins to bloom, moths are attached to oviposit on the florets. For a short time larvae feed on the floral parts and then tunnel into the seed. Larvae are easily recognized by their cream and brown alternate stripes. Larvae found so far have been about 1/8 to 1/4 inch in size. A full grown larvae is 3/4 inch long. Larval feeding can predispose the head to a fungus infection known as Rhizopus head rot. This rot has already been observed in early blooming fields.

*Upcoming Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2010*



The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will be holding a Mid-Season Cotton Management Meeting on July 8th at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview, Texas. Sign in for CEU's will begin at 8:45 a.m. The first presentation begins at 9:00 a.m. Attendees will receive 2 CEU's.

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