

## PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS



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Issue 5

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### GENERAL

Again we have had cool rainy conditions this past week. Reports of rainfall have ranged from a couple of inches to over 7 inches for the past seven days. At my house in Plainview I have had 5.1 inches this week. Rains have been excellent for corn and sorghum. While it may not be the best condition for cotton we always welcome it, even if it is excessive.

### COTTON

As of Thursday, July 8 we had not observed blooms in IPM fields. Today observations will be made in the Cotton Center area, which some early planted fields that should be very close to bloom.



Cotton fleahoppers have been observed in many fields but populations have remained stable or declined in a few situations. Most fields are averaging 4 to 5 fleahoppers per 100 terminals, which is relatively low. Percent square sets ranged from 76% to 90% range. These counts are based on total square counts and not 1st position squares.

Lygus adults and nymphs continue to be found in area cotton, with counts about 20% of those for fleahopper.

Cotton aphids were reported

from many more area fields this past week. Isolated spots in fields have had over 200 per leaf. So far these are only small areas and lady beetles are actively engaged in reducing populations.

Beneficials remain excellent. Crab spiders and other spiders being the most prominent. Also big eyed bugs, lacewing larvae, pirate bug nymphs and damsel bugs have been common.

### SORGHUM

Early planted fields are now in boot to flowering stage. Late planted sorghum is just emerging to 6 inches tall.

Corn leaf aphids are abundant in some fields and not present in others. We generally consider this aphid not to be a pest, since it is an excellent food source for predators.

A few greenbug colonies have been reported, but damage has been light so far.

Fall armyworm infestations have been very heavy in some fields and light in others. Control of fall armyworm is difficult in whorl stage sorghum. Ground rig and aerial application have not had high rates of success, unless followed by adequate rainfall to wash insecticide into the whorl. The only time whorl applications for fall armyworm may be justified is in the late whorl stage, just prior to boot. This is when fall armyworm will feed on the head as it exerts from the whorl.

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## ***CORN***

Banks grass mite infestations remain on the lower leaves of the plant. The recent cool wet weather should slow mite increases and allow for predation. Also if mite densities are high enough the current humid, rainy conditions are right for development of the mite disease known as Neozytes. Mites infected by this disease die and have a gray fuzzy appearance. If conditions remain cool and wet, this disease can spread rapidly through the colonies.

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