

PLAINS PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS



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Issue 7

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News About
**Integrated Pest
Management in
Hale &
Swisher Counties**

COTTON

Many cotton fields are now in the early bloom stage with bloom counts ranging from 2 per 3 foot of row to 1 bloom/120 foot of row. Fields that were blooming by July 13 now have 2 bolls and blooms per plant. Irrigation of cotton has now started back with center pivots to replenish depletion in the top foot. Nodes above white flower counts this week remain at 8 to 10. Fields coming in at 8 NAWF need to be managed closely for water requirements to maintain the 8 NAWF level for several weeks to sustain yield potential.



Cot-
ton aphid
popula-
t i o n s
have in-
creased

over the area, but counts remain below treatment thresholds. Many fields have populations that are difficult to find; but they are present. One field that had heavily in-

festated areas or spots (> 200/leaf) several weeks ago, have now crashed due to predation. Lady beetles have been the predominate beneficial feeding on aphid colonies, but Scymnus lady beetles and lacewing larvae are also found.

Cotton fleahopper nymph counts have increased greatly over the past week, with some fields averaging 2 per 3 foot of row. These same fields have continued to have percent square sets around 80 to 85%. As most fields are now in the early bloom stage cotton fleahopper is usually no longer a concern, unless extensive square loss is occurring. A square initiated today (July 23) could be a bloom by August 13 under optimum conditions. This is about the time the plant enters cut out and blooms retention or harvestable bolls declines rapidly after this date. The majority of ones yield potential is a square, bloom or boll that is currently on the plant today.

Lygus bug nymphs are also on the increase, although much less than the cotton fleahopper populations. As bolls are formed look for evidence of Lygus feeding. Small bolls fed on by Lygus are often aborted from the plant. When Lygus are present one can often see the discolored antlers in the white flowers from the Lygus feeding on the late stage square or “candle”. If this is observed scout your field closely for Lygus.

A few **cabbage loopers** and beet armyworms were reported this week feeding on foliage. Loopers have been locally heavy, but defoliation has been light. Beet armyworms have only been occasionally found and no major infestations have been reported.

Beneficials continue to be plentiful in cotton this year. Spider are still dominate, although hooded beetles are also very common. The Hooded beetle is a common predator, but information on their impact on pest species is limited. Nabids also known as damsel bugs are on the increase, with many more nymphs and adults observed this week.

CORN

Dr. Pat Porter, Extension Entomologist reported a significant increase in southwestern corn borer trap collections this past week. Non-Bt corn fields should be scouted now to mid-August for egg lays by the southwestern corn borer (swcb). Eggs are laid in clusters, which overlap each other like shingles on a roof. When first laid they are white and then develop 3 red stripes at about 24 hours of development. Once the red lines develop the eggs are much easier to locate in the leaf surface. The majority of the eggs are laid from 2 leaves above the ear leaf to 4 leaves below. This egg lay may shift up or down slightly based on mite damage and environmental factors. Treatment for SWCB is usually justified when eggs or small larvae are found on 20 to 25% of the plants.

SORGHUM

Early fields have reached around 50% bloom. Sorghum midge were not found in the few blooming fields inspected this week. Scout daily for this pest during the bloom period.

Greenbug infestations are variable with noticeable spotting of leaves in some fields.

Scout sorghum heads for corn earworm and fall armyworm infestations.

Economic injury level for large (longer than ½ inch) corn earworm larvae shown as the number of larvae per acre. When the number of larvae per acre exceeds the number in the table at a given cost of control and value of grain per cwt, the value of the protected grain exceeds the cost of control.

Control Cost %/Acre	Grain Value (\$/100 lbs)		
	4.00	5.00	6.00
6	14,600	11,700	9,750
8	19,500	15,600	13,000
10	24,400	19,500	16,250
12	29,300	23,400	19,500

Economic injury level for medium-size (¼ to ½ inch) corn earworm larvae shown as the number of larvae per acre. When the number of larvae per acre exceeds the number in the table at a given cost of control and value of grain per cwt, the value of the protected grain exceeds the cost of control.

Control Cost \$/Acre	Grain Value (\$/100 lbs)		
	4.00	5.00	6.00
6	77,000	62,500	51,500
8	102,750	82,000	68,500
10	128,300	102,750	85,500
12	154,000	123,200	102,750

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