

General Status

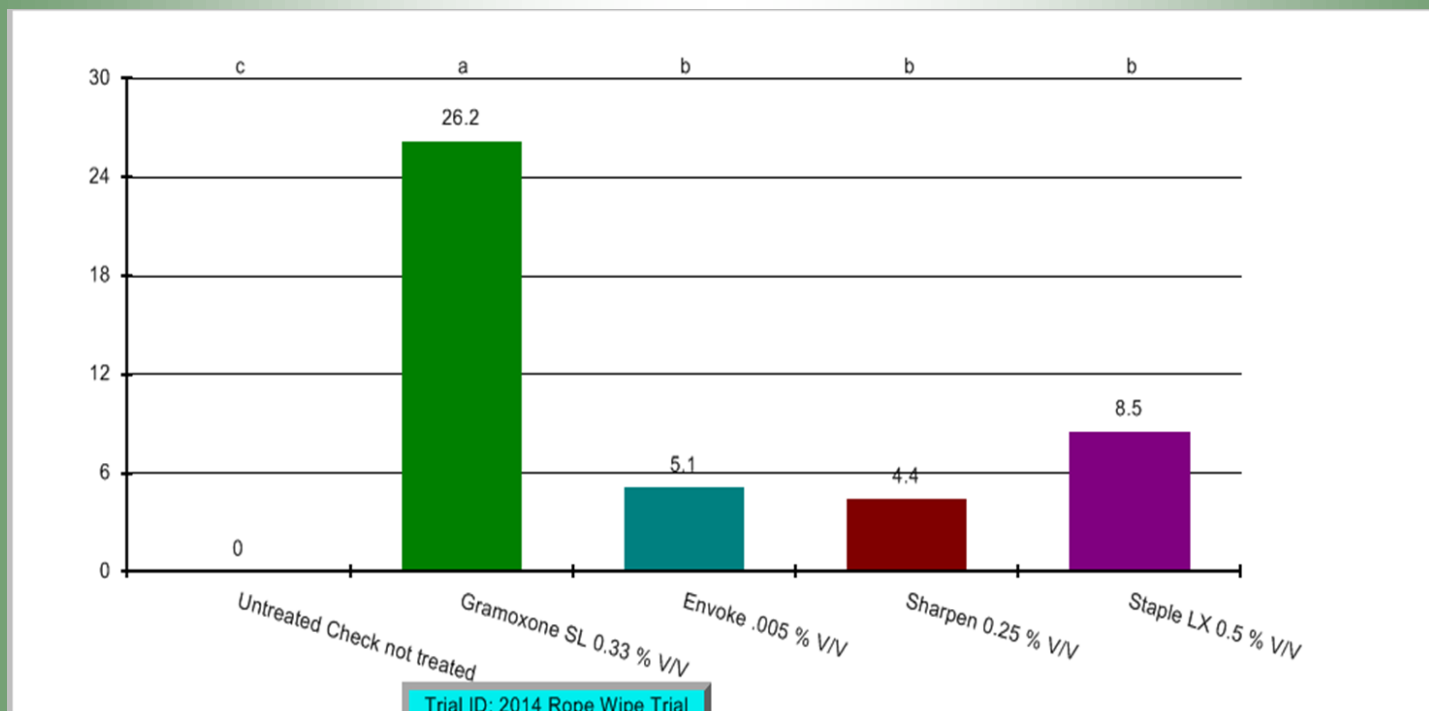
After a baking but ideal growing condition week in the field last week, this week was much cooler. Our rainfall amounts that were expected, the price we were bracing to pay for the reduction of heat units, with these cool fronts came up very short and lacking. I have reports from our northern areas receiving the most rainfall with 0.3 of an inch. Most of us received much less if any. Our crops continue to develop and hold up fairly well without the additional rains but irrigations are starting as our 'late' crops start getting thirsty and rush toward peak water use soon. Meanwhile our pests have not been troublesome, but they have not been silent either.

Weeds

It is no secret that the weed pressure has been high again this season and that any escapes (and sometimes fields) have been very hard to deal with. Many area producers are again looking backwards in our weed control tool bag for answers to economically get these weeds nailed down for the year. The topic of rope-wicks has been frequent of late. What was of utmost interest is that what several pioneering producers have been proclaiming as a successful rope-wick treatment when it technically should not have a chance of working.

Gary Cross, CEA-Hale, and myself teamed up for a rope-wick weed trial in an effort to officially confirm this claim of success and to get a decent and replicated look at some potential rope-wick product possibilities. Together we improvised an agent powered rope-wick and carefully selected the products we would utilize for our small plot trial. Finding surviving weeds was not a problem this season. The rope was soaked in a mix of our choice of products and water (varying ratio of product and water depending upon how strong we felt the ratio needed to be to work and be economical), wrapped around an old moisture probe, recharged, and applied to tough, glyphosate proven resistant weeds at roughly two inches above the top of a weed troubled cotton patch. A fresh rope was utilized for each treatment. Due to the agent powered nature of the trial and the shortness of time, the trial was limited to 4 treatments and an untreated check. The following chart

contains all of our chosen products, ratio of product and water used, and is given in terms of percent control at 6 DAT.



At this early stage of 6 days after treatment, it might be a little early to see what kind of control we truly achieved with some of these treatments. As expected, the Gramoxone treatment burned down weeds quicker, but may also not fully kill all weeds affected. I can say that I am surprised by how many large weeds Gramoxone did control through this type of application method. I should also note that we only made one swipe with our rope ‘rig’ and that some of the newer rope-wipes might get slightly better coverage. We did not expect a great deal of success from Staple with this method as it has had trouble killing large weeds this season, but it is labeled for OVT treatments in cotton. We are not sure what type of control to expect with Sharpen and Envoke with this application method yet. In another 7 days, we will re-evaluate and share what we have found.

Cotton

Cotton made great progress last week, and still good progress this week in the cooler weather. Many of these days were up above 80°F so that the plant’s photosynthesis developed sugars still moved to the developing fruit where it is needed. It also remained humid which helped conserve some plant water use.

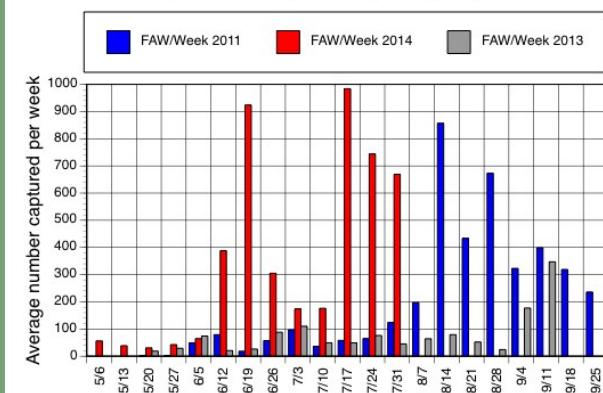
All of our program cotton fields are blooming. Our stages ranged from 1st bloom to 4.5 NAWF (nodes above white flower). The majority of fields fell between the 6 and 8NAWF stage. Fruit retention still looks very good, ranging between 89 (a fleahopper treated and corrected field) to 98.6%. Several fields are now sporting multiple dime size and larger bolls.

Corn

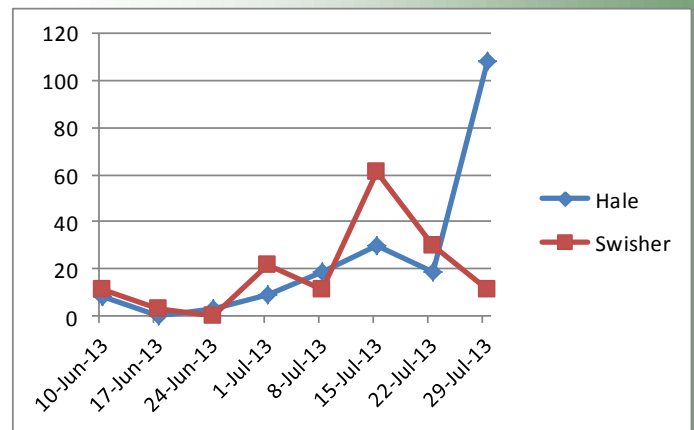
Our program corn ranged from V6 through late dough this week. All fields look to be doing quite well. Spider mites remain present in tasseled fields. All of our program fields that had tasseled prior to July 20 required treatment for the banks grass mite. We have not been forced into treating any field younger than that and mites remain difficult to find in those younger fields. The key spider mite predators are truly starting to make a good impact in the area. We are regularly finding six-spotted thrips larva and mite destroyers. In a conversation with Jon Hooten, area crop consultant, he stated that, “We had to treat several fields for mites until the beneficials finally came around. The mite pressure in our fields dropped after that happened.”

We are not seeing very many fall armyworms (FAW) in our program corn at this time. Even our non-Bt fields are not showing many FAW present at any stage. I do have a report from a producer that can, “easily find my refuge rows due to the FAW damage.”

2014 fall armyworm pheromone trap captures (moths per week) at Lubbock. (2011 was a high fall armyworm year.)



Dr Pat Porter’s FAW moth traps, Lubbock



Plains Pest Management’s 2014 Bollworm moth trap numbers

Almost all of the bollworm (corn earworm) larva we are finding this week in in tasseled corn at a rate of 1 to 2 per ear. We are not finding any in cotton and very, very few in sorghum.



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We're on the air...

***"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:00—7:00 AM
& from 12:30—1:00
PM on the 1090 Agri
-Plex Report on 1090
AM KVOP-
Plainview.***

***"IPM Wednesdays" from
1:00-2:30 PM on The
Fox Talk 950 Ag
Show. Fox Talk 950
AM - Lubbock.***

Sorghum

Our program sorghum ranged from V7 through early dough stage. Of our three major crops, sorghum probably has the most pest activity in it this week. Just about all of the corn missing FAW are in our late, whorl stage sorghum in large numbers. I have received multiple calls about this fairly high amount of FAW damage in our whorl stage sorghum this week. Many producers really want to pull the trigger and treat for this damaging pest. I should remind producers sorghum can tolerate very high amounts of damage during the whorl stage and not affect yield significantly. This damage is very unsightly but only in extreme cases would it be economic or would we even have the ability to get product to the worms so deep inside the whorl. This generation of FAW will eventually mature, leave the whorl sorghum to pupate, and then become moths ready to lay dozens to hundreds of eggs. That next generation of FAW is what I expect will hit our then booting and heading sorghum that will pose the most economic threat. At that crop stage the FAW / headworms would be feeding directly upon the higher energy grain.

In our program we do have several fields' currently in bloom and we are still finding some sub-threshold midge in spots. Our highest midge find this week was 0.42 per head, which is fairly high and needs to be watched daily. We had one sorghum field reach ET for mites this week and there are several others on the bubble unless those key mite predators can turn the corner here too.

Please call or come by with any questions,

Blayne Reed