

JULY 1, 2016

## General Status

For the first week of this growing season, I believe our program fields made it through this week without weather, or some other factor, demolishing some. It is possible some area fields could have been under a heavier popcorn shower or two this week that I am not aware of. Most of those convective showers brought a touch of tantalizing touch of moisture of everyone. These at least settled the dust a bit or even gave some a mild cotton shower or two, a few likely brought some localized heavy downpours that could have included some hail. As the last of the replants are just getting started, the hot, humid weather has kept progress rolling along for all fields and crops. In our Plains Pest Management Scouting Program we have corn about to tassel, sorghum nearing boot, and cotton at ¼ grown square. Of course we also have replanted corn just emerging, replanted dry sorghum seed in thirsty dryland fields without enough moisture to establish, and replanted cotton only at the 3<sup>rd</sup> leaf stage too. With crops all over the board like this, there are plenty of factors to keep an eye out for, and what we need to be looking for varies from field to field.

## Weeds

The ongoing weed battle continues. Even the producers with the most aggressive and proactive weed IPM plans in place are feeling weed pressure, despite what are truly some weed control successes out there, the weed pressure remains high. These weeds mean business. I would urge everyone who has any surviving weeds following glyphosate treatments to consider those weeds resistant and attack them accordingly.



2014 Photo of some pigweeds surviving Roundup treatments to

Ignite treated fields seem to be working very well in the high humidity. The humidity factor should help in Ignite treatment coverage in West Texas, and thusly percent control. I do

urge consultants and producers to watch treated weeds for any regrowth around the base of weed pests following treatment. Any green showing underneath the Ignite ‘fried’ control will result in a weed re-growing and likely stronger than it was before. Often, quick turn arounds and retreatments are needed to finish these surviving weeds off.

One common ‘weed’ we are seeing quite a bit of in our program is volunteer corn. The definition of a weed is any plant out of place. So, corn in a cotton field is certainly a weed, and a hard to control one at that, mostly because the volunteer corn has similar if not improved herbicide tolerant traits to cotton. While we are likely to need some mechanical and / or physical control methods to completely clean out every cotton field of this volunteer corn, there are some over-the-top herbicide options, if you have not applied already. Here is a short list of products, taken quickly off the top of my head (with an official list for this particular issue (istent) that I know are labeled in Texas. For a full list you your area, please consult appropriate labels:



Volunteer Corn in 2016 Cotton—a common sight.

nonex-

Product Common Name	Active Ingredient
	<b>ACTIVE INGREDIENT:</b> Quizalofop-P-Ethyl Ethyl (R)-2-[4-(6-chloroquinoxalin-2-yl oxy)phenoxy] propionate.
	<i>Active Ingredient:</i> Fluzifop-P-butyl Butyl (R)-2-[4-[[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]oxy]phenoxy]propanoate* . . . .
	<i>Active Ingredient</i> Quizalofop-p-ethyl Ethyl(R)-2-[4-(6-chloroquinoxalin-2-yloxy)- phenoxy]propionate
	Active Ingredient *Clethodim. . . . .

With most of the products listed here, we should be able to expect some Johnson grass and other grass control too. We also need to give the products time to work. These products will kill the growing point first, and new growth should stop. But the rest of the corn plant will remain green for sometime until it fully succumbs. For these reasons, the younger the corn it treated, the better the products will work.

## Cotton

Our program cotton ranged from 3<sup>rd</sup> true leaf stage to ¼ grown square this week. The bulk of our fields ranged between pinhead and matchhead square. Due to the general lateness of this cotton crop, seeing any blooms by July 4<sup>th</sup> is next to impossible despite good crop progress. We are also unable to put thrips fully in the rear view mirror yet with so many young fields still susceptible to thrips damage. While we must remain vigilant in thrips scouting for these fields just in case, the thrips population seems to have moved on to more preferred hosts and are leaving young and already late fields alone for the most part. We had no field in our program require treatment for thrips this week. The ET for thrips remains 1 thrips per true leaf stage until pinhead square stage.

As soon as these fields start putting on squares, they are immediately susceptible to fleahopper damage, and shortly after, Lygus. This week we are finding a notable population of fleahoppers in central and south-central Swisher County. A healthy population of fleahopper predators has kept the fleahoppers in check, but we have found one field already in need of treatment for economic fleahoppers. The ET for fleahoppers remains at 35% plants infested with ample associated square drop damage or conversely, reduced square retention rate. If you are scouting with the use of drop cloths or sweep nets to improve your scouting efficiency, the 35% infestation rate translates into 1 fleahopper / 1.5 – 2 row feet with the same related damage. Lygus were very sparse in our cotton this week but the ET for Lygus would be 1 Lygus / 2.5 – 3 row feet for early square development stage cotton.

Any beneficial and predatory insects in our fields are always welcome, but the more efficient fleahopper predators include big eyed bugs, and Nabids.



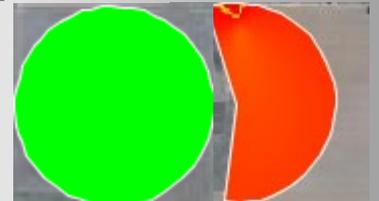
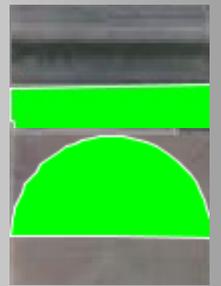
Bigeyed bug



Nabid



Southwestern Hale Field This Week.

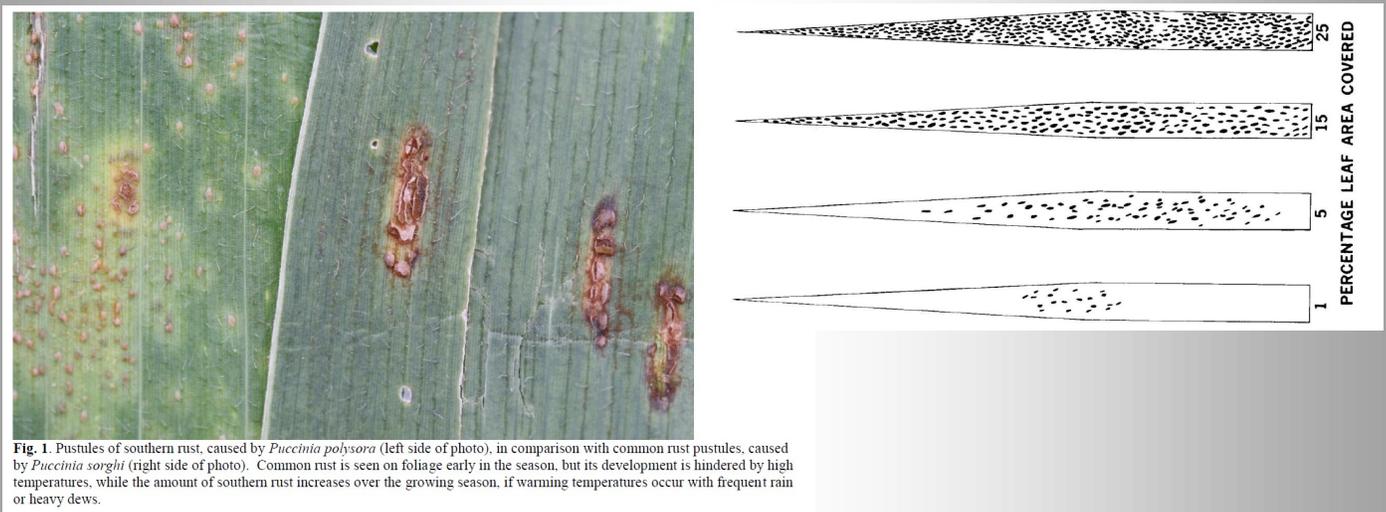


Heat map generation of fleahopper population in central Swisher, where ET fleahopper field was found this week.

## Corn & Sorghum

For these crops, the old saying returns again. No news is good news. So far, we are not finding any major pests to speak of in these two crops at this time. In our non Bt and refuge corn acres and older sorghum fields, we have started picking up some light fall armyworm (FAW) damage feeding in whorls. Most of these turned out to be 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instar FAW, if predators had not cleaned them out of the whorl yet. Thrips, our one time pest in cotton, seems to be moving more into corn and setting up shop. The end result of this seems to have been some inadvertent predation of the spider mite colonies we had been watching in corn by the thrips as they feed upon the corn leaves without economic damage. This week, we found no mite colonies in our program corn or sorghum, but did see plenty of thrips on the lower corn leaves. We still have not seen the major arrival of mite specific predators so we will need to be watching for mite issues as corn moves into tassel. The sugarcane aphid remains pleasantly absent in sorghum. We will be watching closely for this pest. Today our ladybug population, the key sugarcane aphid predator, is higher than an 'average' year, but too low to stop the aphid if they arrive as strongly as they did last season. While many fields in South Texas and the Hill Country have been treated for this pest, the pressure in those areas has been less this year compared to previous. We will see what happens next...

I did receive a few phone calls from Floyd County about diseases in corn, mostly dealing with rust and gray leaf spot. These have been very prevalent early in the season, and with the return of extended periods of high humidity we will need a good evaluation of the corn disease issue at and shortly following tassel. The phone call fields I answered in Floyd were not economic, but very deserving of watching.



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*Pest Patrol Hotline,*

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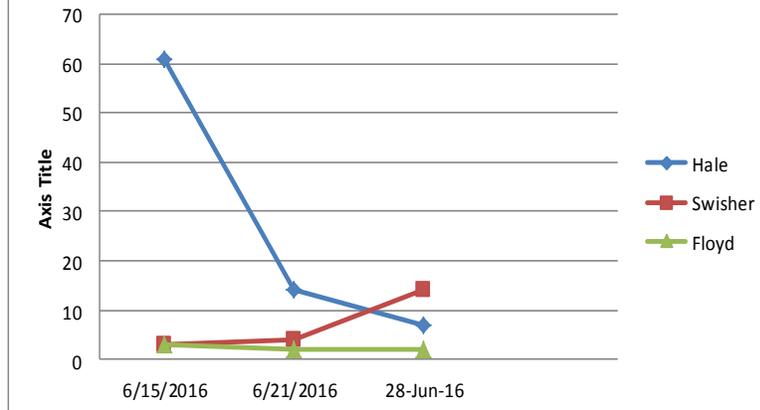
*We're on the air...*

*"Tuesday's with Blayne" from 6:30—7:00 AM on the HPRN network on 1090 AM KVOP-Plainview.*

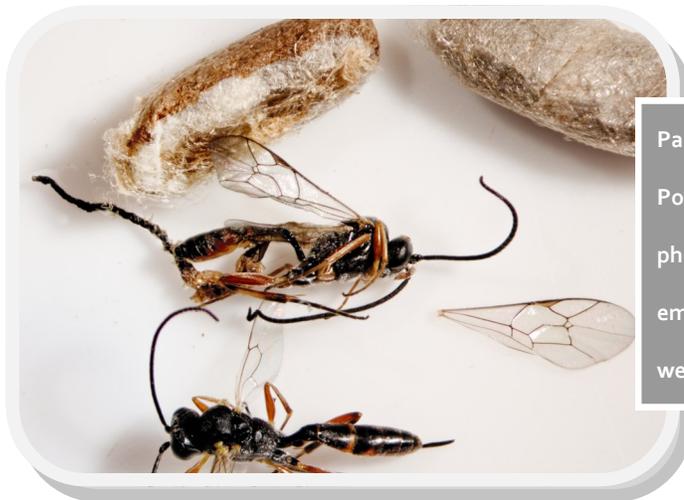
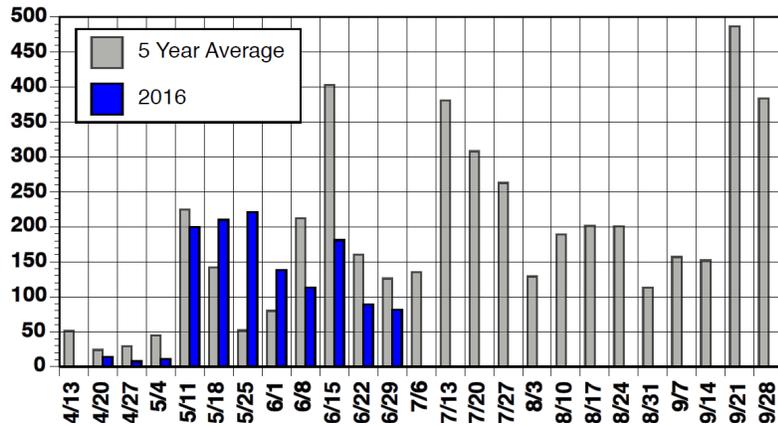
*"IPM Wednesdays" from 1:00-2:30 PM on The FoxTalk 950 Ag Show. FoxTalk 950 AM - Lubbock.*

*"IPM Report with the Bruiser" from 7:06-7:15 PM on 1470 AM KDHN - Dimmit.*

### 2016 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches



Average number of fall armyworm moths per trap, Lubbock, Texas 2016. Current year averages are based on two traps.



Parasitoid wasps Dr. Pat Porter found and photo'd as they emerged from FAW this week. in Lubbock.

*Blayne Reed*