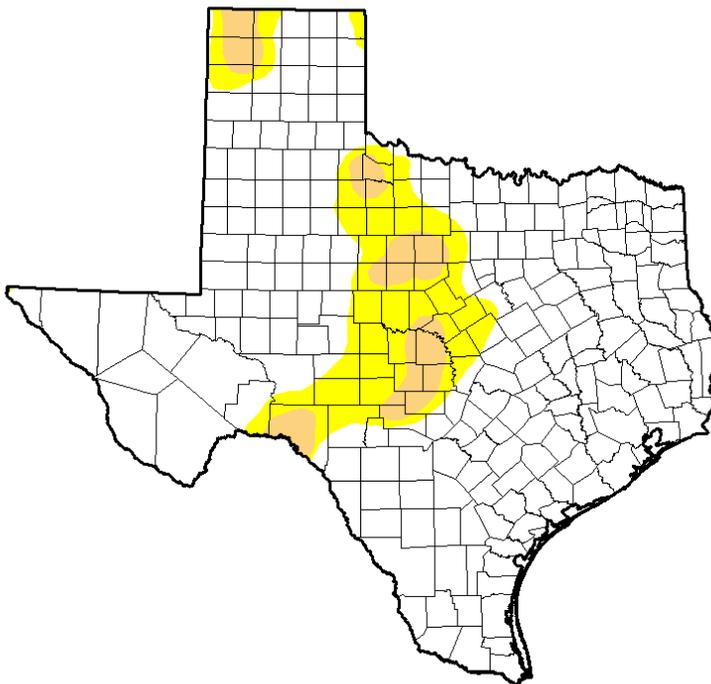


JUNE 2, 2015

General Status

Normally by this calendar date we would be speaking of emergence, stand establishment, and early season pest and predator levels. Last month's welcome record setting rainfall now has most of our summer crop planting intentions in the state of flux. We have discussed emergency grain, alternate and late crop planting options so much that over a very static filled phone call yesterday, it took me about 3 minutes to understand that the customer was not asking about late corn planting and herbicide options but had opted for June cotton after all and needed a quick herbicide fix on that cotton. Last week all phone calls were the other way around while this week is about even. On the good side, we do have moisture to work with. I do caution producers as we are forced into making snap decisions to get a crop in, these decisions made today will affect our entire crop year. A quick double check with an extension guide, label, or phone call to your consultant could prevent a hiccup from becoming a disastrous mistake. The deluge of phone calls I am receiving has certainly forced me to keep those rarely used notes, reference materials, and labels a little closer at hand than usual.



Unfamiliar Territory?

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research has conducted a wealth of research and work experience that has gone into publishing grower guides and crop pest guides for just about every imaginable crop. These should be a great help resource if you are in unfamiliar territory while planning a crop you may not be familiar with. Unfortunately there is not a centralized location where producers can get / download these outstanding guides. The best way is to get your hands on them is to go to <http://agrillife.org/> and do a site search for the respective guide you need.

Weeds

In our rounds we are seeing a healthy level of weeds sprouting and flourishing. It has not been warm enough to generate the full on 'flush' of weeds, namely pigweed, that I would normally expect following with so much rain. With so many variables in herbicides applied for a different purpose, not applied yet, or fields now destined for a differing purpose, discussing applicable options for producers could take volumes. Add the hard earned experience we have had with tough weeds we have had over the past few seasons and we know that our decisions on herbicides must be made quickly and they must be on target.

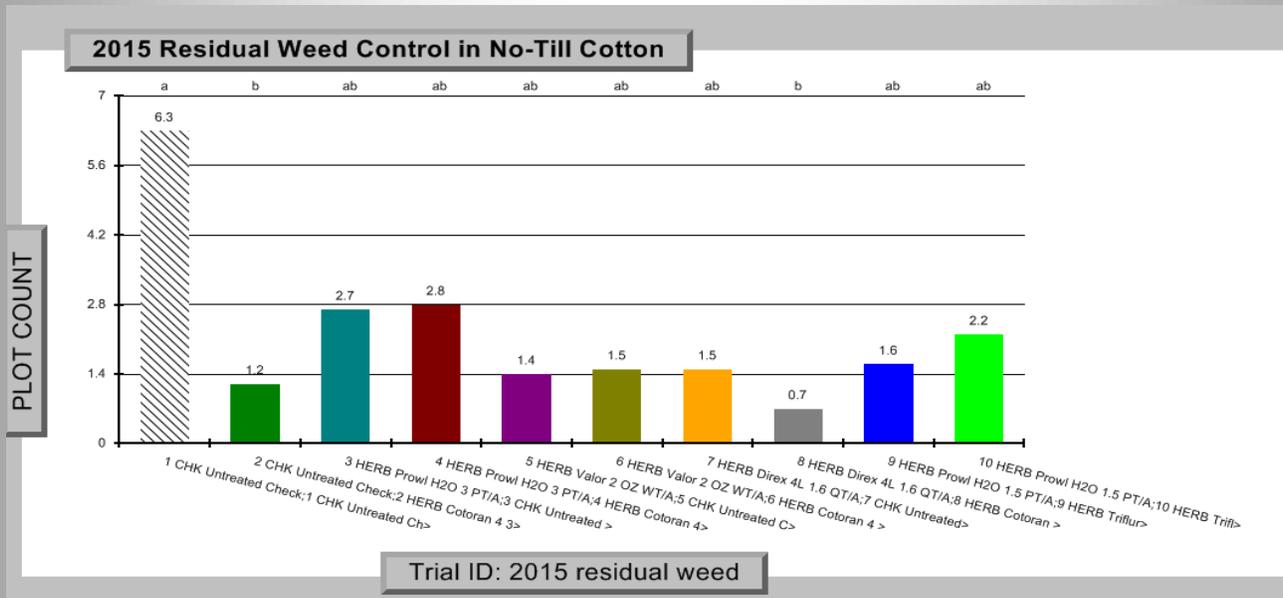


Untreated plots in the 2014 PPM Residual Herbicide Trial, October, 2014. Weeds were hoed and plowed to conclude trial in July.

When we talk cotton residual herbicides there are several stages of decision today. If you have your pre-plant cotton herbicide out already and are still planting cotton, you should be on the best path-

way available but will likely need to shore up those pre-plant residuals with additional residual before squaring. If you do not have any residual out yet, you still have some options. You will either need to make a burndown treatment that includes an easily incorporated residual or you will need to plow in front of the planter and apply one of the 'white' herbicides behind the planter with more residual herbicide backup to come as the season progresses.

The best advice I can broadly offer about types of pre-plant cotton herbicides without bogging down in too many options and situations is to offer the latest results from our pre-plant residual cotton herbicide trial. This trial is in a no-till, wheat cover situation this season. We made our first herbicide application on March 30th and made our second application (Cotoran) behind the planter on May 18th.



May 27, 2015. Average number of weeds per plot. $P=0.0167$, $LSD=0.30t$.

If you have already applied your cotton pre-plant residual herbicide and the field is no longer going to be planted in cotton you likely have some concerns. We addressed this in one of last month's Plains Pest Bugosphere blog articles that I will share excerpts from here again:

Dr. Jordan Bell, extension agronomist district 1, Dr. Wayne Keeling, research agronomist district 2, and myself have been wrestling with the issue in discussions. Dr. Keeling mentioned to Dr. Bell that, "You do not necessarily have to rule out sorghum or even an earlier maturity class corn on Treflan (yellow) ground. Because Treflan is bound very tightly in the soil, you can plant below the herbicide. Well, how deep? That depends on how deep the herbicide was incorporated. Trash whippers work well to push Treflan soil away from the seed. If you plant below the herbicide, the cotyledon can grow through the herbicide, but if you plant on top of the herbicide, the roots will grow through the herbicide and you will see quick herbicide damage. This can be detected within 4 to 5 days after planting as long as soil temperatures are ideal to promote germination. The recent rains will not wash away the herbicide and alleviate the problem. It is best to plant under ideal conditions with soil temperatures at 65F for 10 days to ensure vigorous early growth. Planting in the current conditions with cool soil temperatures will result in stressed plants that will be more susceptible to

herbicide issues in addition to the other problems such as disease and pest problems.”

Dr. Bell added speaking of the Amarillo region, “I do not think many of our Panhandle producers use as much Caparol and Staple as the Southern High Plains producers so hopefully those will not affect too many acres.”

Our specialist’s thoughts on the issue would fit very well with what I have witnessed in the fields over the years. We definitely want to get below our “yellow” pre-plant cotton herbicides with corn or sorghum plantings into really good planting conditions, and maybe bump our seeding rates a touch. I would caution about bumping seeding rates too much as it is very easy to get too high a plant population by over estimating any loss due to herbicide, especially if we successfully plant below the herbicide layer. Corn and sorghum seedling do tend to act much more heartily with deeper plantings compared to cotton when it comes to emergence.

It might also do some good to recheck the label for the applied herbicide. We might be concerned over nothing. There are a few pre-plant residual herbicides, some of the ‘white’ herbicides by name, which have both a corn and cotton label. This can remain unknown by producers unless both crops are commonly grown often by those producers.

This is a link to a publication by Dr. Calvin Trostle, non-cotton agronomist district 2 that addresses crop restrictions for herbicide applied for cotton: <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/programs/crops/cotton/general-production/alternative-crop-options-after-failed-cotton-and-late-season-crop-planting-for-the-texas-south-plains/>



“Don’t forget about the weeds!” might be more prominent in West Texas these days than “Remember the Alamo!” was in 1836.

If you are planting sorghum or corn and have no herbicides out this could be a great opportunity to expose these weeds to a differing mode of action (MOA) than they have seen in sometime. Particularly in corn, there is a large amount of over the top, pre-V5 stage herbicides that offer great knock-down potential when paired with glyphosate while offering unique season long residual, especially when paired with atrazine. Please consult specific label restrictions and take precautions, but I do like and have seen many of these corn herbicide options working well enough to be ok with establishing a corn

stand before making a treatment. I am much more particular about sorghum even though there is a solid list of herbicides that can be utilized in this crop. I would recommend maintaining the use of a labeled pre-plant residual herbicide for all sorghum.

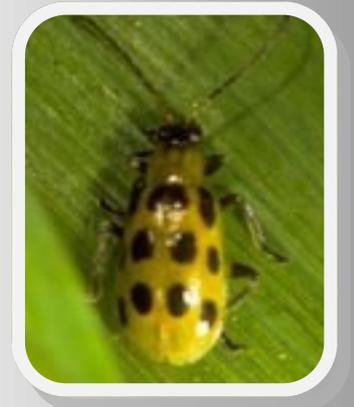
Cotton

All of our scouting program cotton that has been planted well looks like it should establish a healthy stand as of today. This of course is a fraction of the acres we expected to have planted by this time and I have not been in a field that was planted before May 11th. I have concerns about fields that were somehow planted earlier in the month but have no experience in them. The cool temperatures and wireworm pressure are likely to have taken a heavy toll. The first half of last week was the heaviest cotton planting days we had and those fields can already be rowed if not already shinning. Wireworm and extremely early thrips pressure look minimal so far. Our youngest cotton is still seed in the bag while our oldest stage is 1st true leaf.

Corn & Sorghum

I feel that somehow most of our Plains Pest Management member's intended 'normal' corn acres have been planted. There are still a large amount of intended 'late' corn acres to be planted and a large contingent of 'new' late corn acres to be planted. This places our program's youngest corn as still in the bag but our oldest has already reached V6. Of what is actually in the field the stage runs from radical to V6 and everything in between without much stage consistency.

The only corn pest of note we found in our field scouting this week was a surprise of some adult corn rootworms on V5 stage corn north of Tulia. This 2015 corn field has three 2014 corn fields very nearby that were likely the source for the adult beetles.



Southern Corn Rootworm adult



Southern Corn Rootworm larva on 'crown' roots

These were not at a level that causes me any great concern over that lone field's economic status, but does give me a red flag warning

about any corn that is or will be planted back into corn ground. This is rarely a problem in Hale, Swisher, & Floyd due to our crop rotation but it is possible if consecutive back to back corn is grown that the larva, overwintering in the soil, will do economic damage to the second corn crop early in the growing season via root feeding and pruning. If this is the case and corn is destined to be planted this season behind last season's corn, I recommend both the proper rootworm Bt toxin be utilized and

recommended seed treatments for rootworm control be used. There are also liquid and granular insecticides labeled for corn rootworm control if this is an applicable option for you. Please consult the extension corn guide for a complete list of control products.



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We're on the air...

*"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:30—7:00 AM
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.*

There are very few sorghum fields in our scouting program that have been planted. The oldest is at V2. We found no pests of note in sorghum yet. There are concerns over the sugarcane aphid and the 'lateness' of our coming sorghum crop. The latest sugarcane aphid update I can forward and condense is that the actual pressure from this aphid is less than expected in South Texas and along the Gulf Coast and that neither myself or Dr. Pat Porter, district 2 entomologist, have not yet found any surviving colony on our area Johnson grass. There could be multiple reasons for this which include cool weather, improved producer management and adoption of recommended IPM principles, and / or a natural stabilization from predators in that area. These are all hypothesis today and we will be keeping you posted as information becomes available.

Other Pests

It is a little early in the season for us to post our moth trap catches, but I can relate that our fall armyworm (FAW) and bollworm moth catches are high for Hale County. This concurs with Dr. Pat Porter's latest FAW trap catches in Lubbock County. At this time I have no FAW information for Swisher or Floyd, but the bollworms are starting higher than 'normal' also in Swisher also.

Thanks,

Blayne Reed