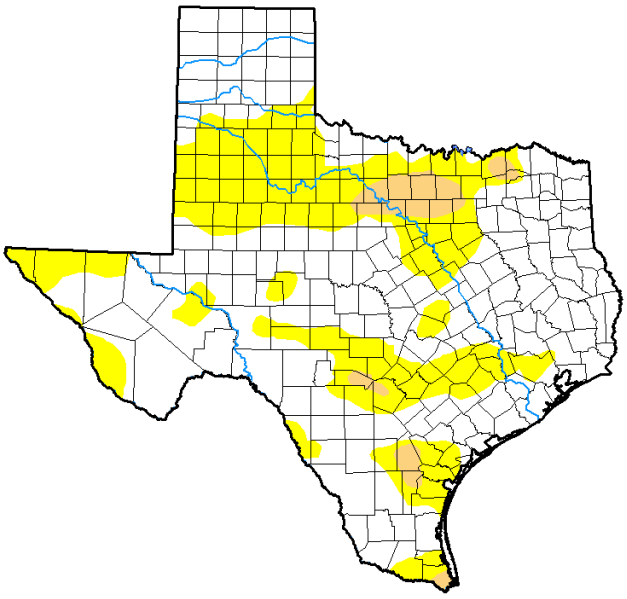
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Plains Pest Management News

JUNE 2, 2017

General Status

Dry. Not 2011 dry, but dry conditions have certainly crept over and into the seedzone for the the area. The showers that came through the month of May were either too spotty, too little, or, even, too intense to be a boon for the area. As stated last week, planting conditions have been highly variable and they distastefully remain so. I fear that there are many earlier planted dryland fields that germinated, dried out, and failed to establish. There is still time to plant or replant dryland fields, but for most of the area, it would be a dry planting unless the field recieves at least a half-inch rain soon. There are notable irrigated fields that have failed to establish as well. These seem to be the exception rather than the norm with pivots running, more and earlier than we would like to see, have brought along much of the cotton to at least a minimal plant per acre population. Those irrigated fields that failed seem to be more due planting into cool conditions followed heavy showers and at least some wireworm pressure. We have crossed the line that most would consider 'late' planted cotton. For those unfortunate fields that must be replanted, yield potential slipps daily but remains a better option than leaving a unprofitable stand. Established cotton and grain crops continue are fairing pretty well on the bottom line. Thus far corn and sorghum have few pests to speak of and are mostly advanced in stage enough to tap into the deeper soil moisture we still have, despite dry conditions above and for several inches below the soil surface. Hopefully, that situation is changing as I write.



Cotton

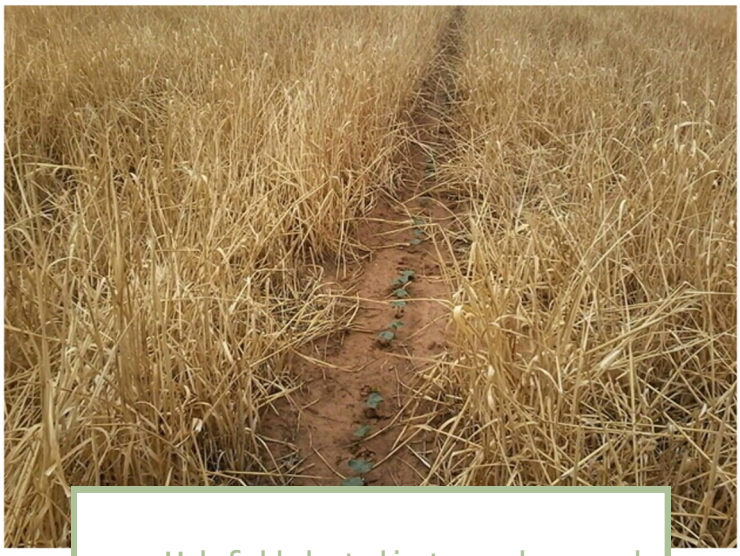
Despite the confussed month of cotton planting and difficulties with establishment, most irrigated fields in our scouting program are in pretty decent shape. Only about 4% were recommended to be replanted. The fields that had to be replanted were all casulties of cool conditions and intense rains behind the planter. All of the earlier planted fields felt the impact of the less than optimal soil conditions of a few weeks ago. This shows up in their plant per acre (PPA) stand counts and their retarded development. Meanwhile the later planted cotton, planted into more ideal conditoins is rocketing out of the ground, as long as it has moisture to work with. Many fields show which way the pivot moved by stand establishment / plant age differences.

Of our earlier planted fields, the plant population ranges between a light but evenly spaced 28,000 PPA to 36,000 PPA while the later planted fields range between 39,000 PPA and 51,337 PPA. Our fields range in maturity between seed still in the barn and 2nd true leaf stage with most fields falling between cotyledon and 1st true leaf and the later planted fields quickly catching the earlier. Thrips remain our largest and only pest issue in cotton. We had some rediculous numbers last week that are starting to abait, but still well over ET of 1 thrips per true leaf stage for most fields. Our highest thrips population came in at 6.5 thrips per true leaf stage on 2nd leaf stage cotton. Our lowest came in at 0 thrips found in field for cotyledon stage cotton. The annual pattern of thrips populaton distrobution seems to be folling suit again. Thrips numbers are generally higher north of Plainview than south. For example, the high thrips population of 6.5 thrips per leaf stage came this week from the 2nd leaf stage field in southeastern Swisher. The highest thrips numbers we found this week in Hale was 1.2 thrips per true leaf stage, again on 2nd leaf stage cotton. Both fields are over ET and should receive treatment as soon as practicable but the Swisher field is in a much more serious situation.

6.5 thrips per true leaf stage on 2nd leaf stage cotton in southeastern Swisher. 2017

Our insecticide seed treatments are proving to be a good investment again this year. They are not fool proof by any means. With the intense thrips movement we seen to the north over the last few weeks from wheat, adult thrips continually moving into the cotton can cause economic loss from sheer numbers of thrips moving in. Even if all thrips are eventually controlled in this situation the amount of relentless invasion of hungry thrips still causes damage above and beyond what our treatments can protect against. These seed treatments also have an 'exparation date.' They will loose efficacy as some point. In the field, we can gauge this by noting the life stage of the in field thrips. Once insecticidal treatments lose efficacy, thrips will begin to reproduce in field. We can note this when we begin to find the larva feeding alongside the adults. This week we noted some of our earliest planted cotton losing its seed treatment efficacy. These fields are only at the 2nd leaf stage, but have been 'in the ground' several weeks. Often we can expect seed treatment residual to last until the 3rd leaf stage. We must remember not to calculate seed treatment residual by plant stage but rather by days since planting. The residual will wear down, regardless of how slowly the plant is developing due to less than ideal seed bed conditions.

Southern Hale cotton with 1.2 thrips per true leaf stage



2017 Hale field planted just 1 week ago and irrigated quickly

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http://
hale.agrilife.org

For quicker pest alerts-

Plains Pest Bugoshere:

http://
halecountyipm.blogspot.com/

Pest Patrol Hotline, registration at:

www.syngentapestpatrol.com

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.

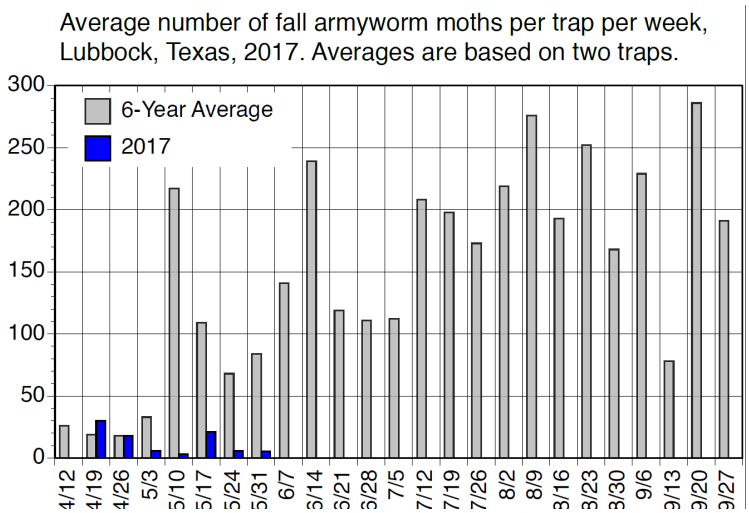
Corn and Sorghum

It has been pretty quite this week in our few corn and sorghum fields. Our only corn is at V6 and oldest sorghum is at V4 with all other sorghum fields as seed yet to be planted. This week Dr. Pat Porter, Entomologist Lubbock, shared an email alert from Dr. Allen Knutson, Entomologist Dallas, regarding the sugarcane aphid migration progress. Below is the email:

Yesterday, SCA was reported from Kiowa County, OK, about 200 miles east of Canyon. I asked Tom Royer about this report and he confirmed it is from his graduate student who is sampling sorghum fields as part of her research, so its legitimate. She found an alate with several nymphs in one field in Kiowa County and an alate with a nymph is a second field near Altus (Jackson County but that find has not been posted). She is sampling an upper and lower leaf on 48 plants and all leaves on 6 plants, so it's a more intensive sampling than growers or consultants are likely to use at this time.

So this is a big leap north in the distribution map. Since SCA have overwintered as far north as Plainview, TX, maybe these alates in Oklahoma are from a local, overwintering population. Or maybe they were carried by the wind from south TX. Xandra and I were finding a few alates on upper leaves this week in Hill County for the first time, but most SCA still occur as single nymphs (orphans) on lower leaves. I think the predators and parasites have been limiting the establishment of colonies so far. I am finding the same in fields along the Red River, although a few colonies were present this week.

Allen



Blayne Reed