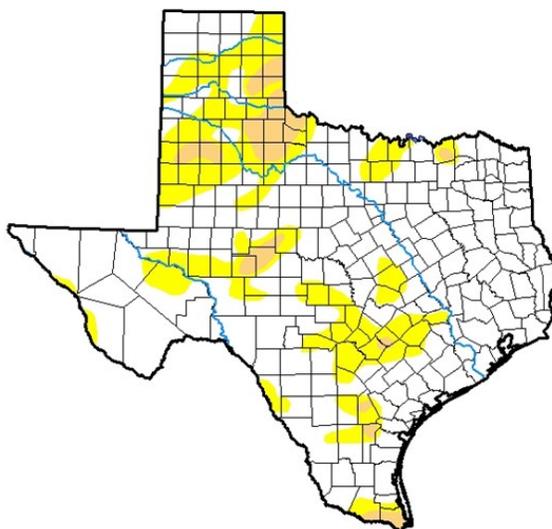


JUNE 23, 2017

General Status

We zipped through another scorching week of hot temperatures and limited rainfall. Still, I cannot say that our crops are in too bad shape. Of course, there remains the mess of dryland fields that we grit our teeth at when they catch our eye, the heavy hailed areas are a sore spot, weeds are doing all they can with the moisture given, weather whips and bakes our established crops, and we are not pest free. Still most irrigated and some early planted dryland sorghum fields are doing quite well. Rains passed through the region again that looked promising for some real moisture accumulation. Again, the clouds rolled by quickly, leaving little behind. While intense for some areas for a bit, most of us could still kick up dust from the roads behind this ‘rain’ too. That leaves many dryland fields no better than when the ‘rains’ found them. With cooler temperatures and rain chances still in the forecast for the next several days, we remain hopeful for beneficial moisture to help us out soon. The 2017 edition of Alternate Crop Options Behind Failed Cotton and Late-Season Crop Planting for the Texas South Plains was released this week to aid in any hard decisions producers might have: <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/06/Hailout-Replant-LatePlant-Guide-TX-S-Plains-Trostle-Byrd-2017-TOC.pdf>

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



June 20, 2017

(Released Thursday, Jun. 22, 2017)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	72.65	27.35	4.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-13-2017	78.23	21.77	2.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-21-2017	53.46	46.54	8.63	0.93	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	81.50	18.50	6.29	1.97	0.04	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	94.83	5.17	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 06-21-2016	98.62	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
 David Miskus
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

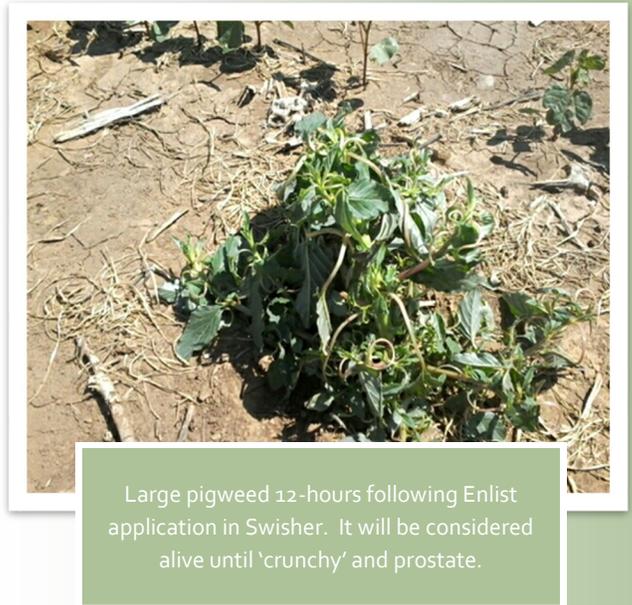


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Weeds

Weed control, weed IPM plans, and weed treatments are truly all over the board. I still believe that our overall weed control continues to improve. The addition of the Enlist and Xtend herbicide traits should only add to this improvement as long as we do not view them as replacements to the level of control we received from Roundup 10 – 15 years ago. It is too early to judge these new herbicide traits locally or any of this season's Liberty and Roundup applications as we are only now starting to come behind applications made in the past 10 days and usually much less. There are a few suggestions I would like to make as we evaluate these applications.

The first one we are applying to our Plains Pest Management scouting program is that we will not be counting a weed as dead until it is crunchy and prostrate. Even if a weed shows damage from a recent application, until it is dry from top to bottom and / or down will we consider it controlled. Our scouts are learning to look much closer at the base of the weeds behind Liberty and to not let any twisting from Enlist or Xtend or any yellowing from Roundup count as control. We will be counting them as live weeds until desiccation.



We are also much more judicious in our weed evaluations this year.

Meaning, we are trying very hard to alert producers to even tiny amounts of weed pressure or herbicide survivorship as early as possible. Most have always tried this, but it is difficult for a field scout to want to rate a freshly emerged pigweed that you must crawl on all fours to even see the same as a 4-foot tall Christmas tree blocking the row. This is a mindset we are working hard to change. We must get the alarm sounded while there is still time to do something about the weed and before it truly becomes problematic. Many of the new guidelines and specialists suggest a 3-inch maximum height for weed control success.



Photos from same NW Hale Field

Left: Pigweed photo on June 8th

Right: Pigweed photo on June 15th



Cotton

Our scouting program's cotton ranged in stage from cotyledon to 1/4 grown square stage. Thrips remained our pest of concern this week. The overall thrips population is waning with movement from wheat ebbing to zero, other suitable hosts availability, and following treatments in mass. Our thrips counts ranged from none found in field up to 1.18 thrips per true leaf with most fields ranging between 0 and 0.4 thrips per true leaf stage. Younger cotton will still be at risk for thrips for the next few weeks but additional treatment is no longer an understood given for any area I Hale, Swisher, or Floyd, including the northern areas that have been so heavy with thrips pressure all season.

For our older cotton fields, square set has begun. This also means we have begun scouting for fleahoppers and Lygus. We have found some spotty fleahopper populations that are well below ET. Our highest population came in at 1 fleahopper per 12.8 row feet.

(roughly 8% plants infested) but in most fields we found no fleahoppers or Lygus. The threshold for fleahoppers should be at 1 fleahopper per 1.5 to 2 row feet if utilizing a drop cloth or 35% infested plants for whole plant inspections with 8 – 15% plant bug caused square loss at this stage of cotton's development. Our fruit loss this week ranged between 0 and 7.82% dropped with most



SE Swisher field sporting some 1/4 grown and match-head squares despite rough conditions. Some fruit drop is natural.



fields having some fruit drop ranging between 2% and 5%. This is not the perfect fruit set we have noted over the past few growing season. I do not feel that very much of this season's increase in fruit drop is a result of plant bug feeding but should be more weather related. It is difficult for our irrigated cotton, still doing quite well, to remain perfect with environmental conditions it has been subjected to so far.



Fleahopper nymph

Corn & Sorghum

Our only PPM corn field came in this week at V9 stage that might be considered VX as it is getting large enough, counting true leaves is difficult. With the hot and dry conditions, we have been watching for spider mite populations in increase or infest during these mite ideal conditions. This week we did not note populations in field. This week, this population was given a 0.1 rating on our Texas A&M 0-10 mite damage rating scale. On this scale a rating of 3.5 – 4 should be considered threshold, mite specific predator population and crop stage depending. This 0.1 population was just starting on the lower leaves but was not limited to field margins only. Specific mite predators remain low at this time. We should watch corn carefully for mites in hot, dry conditions, especially post tassel.



Banks grass mite colony found on lower corn leaf. Silvering is from thrips damage that had also held mites to an unnoticeable level until now. This population of mites was rated at 0.1 on the 0–10 damage scale.

Our PPM sorghum ranged from germination to VX with the early planted sorghum, both dryland and irrigated looking very good. The earliest planted dryland sorghum germinated well in late April while seed beds retained moisture, established and tapped into our deeper moisture, and have since shaded over, limiting evaporation and being able to take advantage of the limited rainfall we have had so far. Hopefully, more rain will carry these fields through July when they begin booting.

Pest remain generally light in our sorghum fields but they were not absent. This week we began picking up yellow sugarcane aphids in all fields. We have no researched threshold for the yellow sugarcane aphid (YSCA) but it has become common to substitute the 0-10 greenbug damage scale for YSCA considerations. Our fields ranged between 0.8 and 2.1 on this scale with limited predator activity. Hopefully, something will move in to aid in control of the YSCA before the sugarcane aphid (SCA) immigrant population arrives. Reports now have the SCA as near as San Angelo.



Light YSCA 'yellowing' damage on lower sorghum leaf in a northern Hale dryland field.



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For quicker pest alerts-

*Plains Pest
Bugshere:*

<http://>

halecountyipm.blogspot.com/

*Pest Patrol Hotline,
registration at:*

www.syngentapestpatrol.com

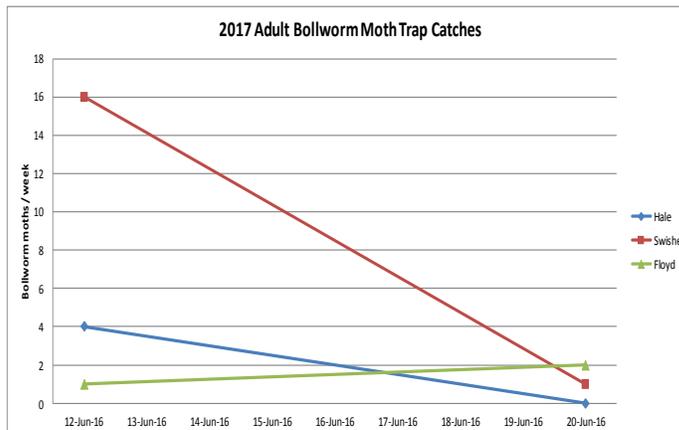
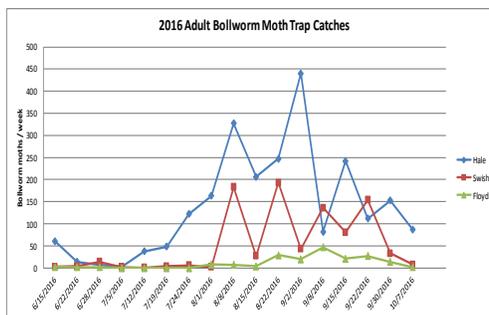
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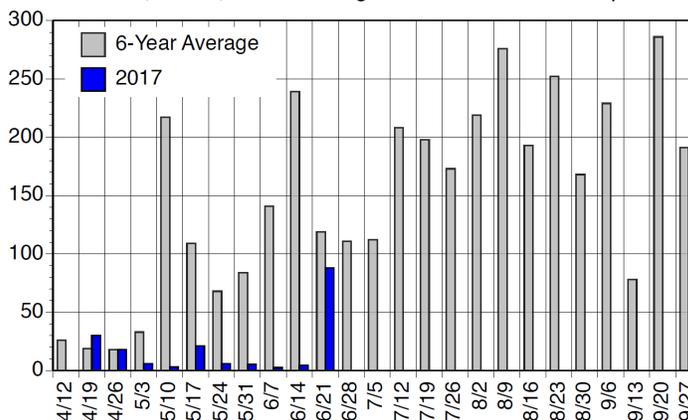
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*"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:30—7:00 AM
on the HPRN net-
work on 1090 AM
KVOP-Plainview.*

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



Average number of fall armyworm moths per trap per week, Lubbock, Texas, 2017. Averages are based on two traps.



Fall armyworm moth catches look to be back on the way up toward a 'normal' level.

We should expect to start seeing whorl damage in sorghum and non-Bt corn soon. We should be watching sorghum closely if it is at or near boot stage. Bollworm moth trap catches remain low by comparison to previous years, but the season is just beginning. We have reports of difficulty with bollworms in Bt and non-Bt crops from some southern areas again this season. Our typical moth flight peak comes in August.

Blayne Reed