

JUNE 26, 2015

General Status

In Hale, Swisher, & Floyd Counties we have been fairly quiet on the pest front. We still have sufficient deep soil moisture in most of our fields. It has been about a week since our latest rainfall event and the temperatures have been climbing. The latest rainfall did have some hail accompaniment but the damage in our participating program fields was minor and only chipped a few corn and sorghum leaves. There may have been a few late cotton fields under this hail that I have not seen but cotton acres in that area are already greatly reduced.

The higher than usual humidity we have had this week with the 90°F highs felt much hotter than 90°. Crop disease pressure has been continuing to lessen with the higher temperatures but as our older corn fields near tassel stage we are starting to see some heat stress during the heat of the day. Part of this is due to the fact that corn does best below 84°F and part of this is the fact that that corn is flat using more water. Irrigation systems are reluctantly being switched on, both to nurture our older corn with peak water use on the horizon but also to get our needed fertilizers out for much of our 'surprise' corn acres still fairly early in their vegetative growth stages.

Wheat

Wheat for grain harvest has begun. The early harvest reports that I have indicate solid yields so far. From south-central Swisher, pivot irrigated yields have been between 50 and 65 bushels while row-watered yields were running at about 35 bushels. Dryland yields across most of Swisher are running between 20 and 35 bushels. In Southwest Hale, pivot irrigated fields are running between 50 – 70 bushels with dryland coming in at 27 – 50 bushels.

One of the questions we often get with regards to wheat as harvest begins deals with fields with weed problems. We have made some recommendations this week that mostly deal with Roundup with various MOA backup or Aim applications prior to harvest for weed control when needed. I spoke this morning with Dr. Jordan Bell, extension agronomist district 1, and Dr. Wayne Keeling, research agronomist district 2, about labeled rates and chemistries for this situation. There is a shortage of research for us to draw from on this subject and few companies seek a label for this late in the growing season. This highlights the need to heartily attack those weeds with both knockdown and residual earlier in the spring to lessen the impact now. Dr. Bell shared a chart with me that she had created recently listing commonly known labeled choices for weed control / wheat harvest.

Product	Harvest Interval	Remarks
glyphosate	7 days	Do not apply to wheat grown for seed, as reduction in germination or vigor may occur.
2,4-D	14 days	Be aware of plant-back restrictions if planning to double crop.
dicamba (Banvel, Clarity)	7 days	Apply at hard dough stage or when the green color is gone from the nodes/joints of the stem. Plant back restrictions if planning to double crop.
Ally	10 days	To improve weed control, Ally should be applied in combination with glyphosate, 2,4-D, or dicamba.
Aim	3 days	May take 7+ days for weeds to dry down.

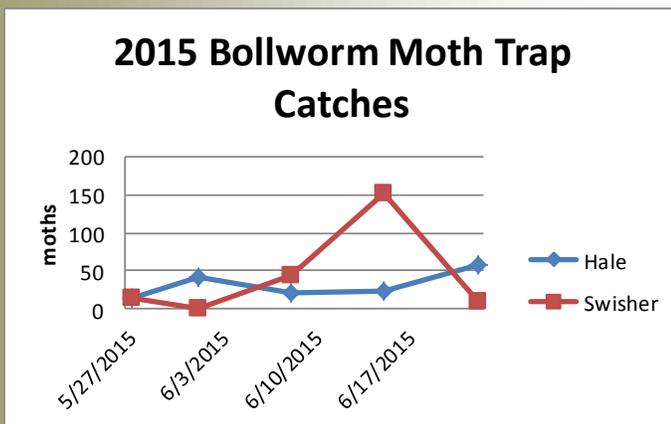
Dr. Bell, Dr. Keeling, and I all agree that Roundup on what are likely resistant weeds would be futile without additional MOA support. Aim should be outstanding on bindweed, morning glory, and smaller weeds. Dr. Keeling was unsure if he would recommend Aim for larger kochia in wheat. I certainly support Dr. Keeling's considerations about Aim, but I have been surprised by what Aim has done to larger kochia weeds in the past in this situation. If the field is very consistent or solid with larger weeds, products with better systemic properties might still be needed.

Cotton

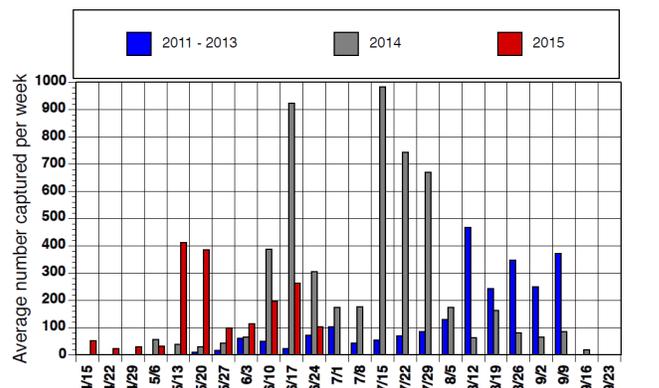
This week our program's cotton ranged in stage from 1st true leaf to just under match-head. The vast majority ranged from 2nd leaf to 4th leaf. Thrips pressure remained light with most fields still returning with zero thrips found for plants checked. Our highest thrips pressure only had 0.5 thrips per plant on 5th true leaf stage cotton. A handful of fields moved completely out of thrips danger and are starting to sport pinhead or match-head squares. In many fields just being treated with their first over-the-top herbicide treatment, we recommended holding off on the addition of products for thrips control, but not all fields. In our seed treatments for thrips control efficacy trials we are running this season, we can tell a difference in treated and the untreated plots in the field. Those plots without seed treatments for thrips control do have more thrips, thrips damage, and are seeing thrips reproduction although it is not at a level as high as we are accustomed to having near wheat. We will see just how much these seed treatments are paying back this year after all the data is run through statistical analysis, but even in this very light thrips year I feel pretty good with most of these treatments helping us out at this time.

Corn & Sorghum

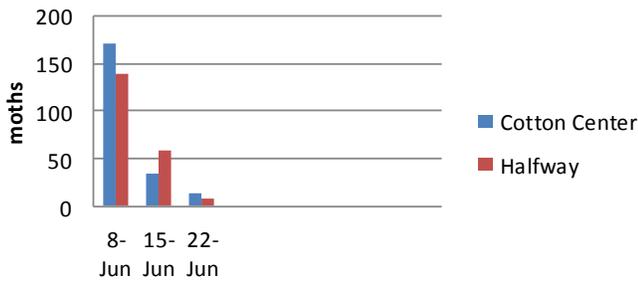
Our program's youngest corn is now in swell and our oldest is in early tassel. That is quite a large gap but most of our older corn is between V9 and V11 while the bulk of our acres are late corn ranging from V3-V6. Sorghum is also spread out in range with swelling seed up to V7. The vast majority of sorghum is running between V3 and V5. Pest pressure remains very light but we are still picking up on some fall armyworms (FAW) feeding in the whorl of non-Bt corn or sorghum old enough to be attractive to the moths. We have also found a few FAW egg masses in corn just as our moth trap numbers have plummeted. These larva should be hatching soon and we will be watching for economic damage as they do.



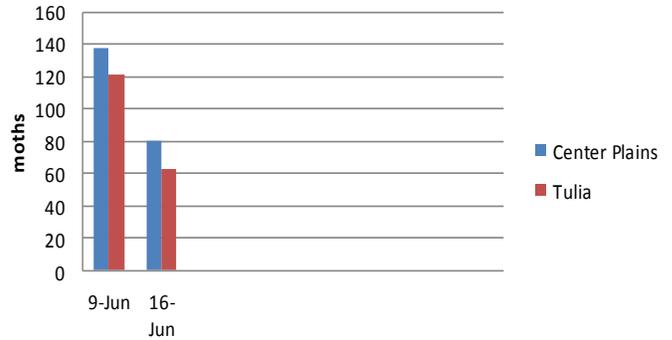
2015 fall armyworm pheromone trap captures (moths per week) at Lubbock. Average of two traps.



2015 FAW Moth Catches - Hale



2015 FAW Moth Catches - Swisher

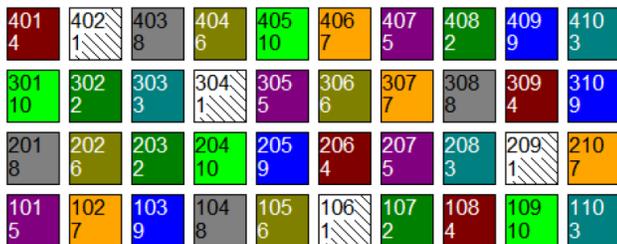


Swisher FAW trap data courtesy of John Villalba, CEA Swisher and Lubbock FAW trap data courtesy of Dr. Pat Porter, District 2 non-cotton entomologist.

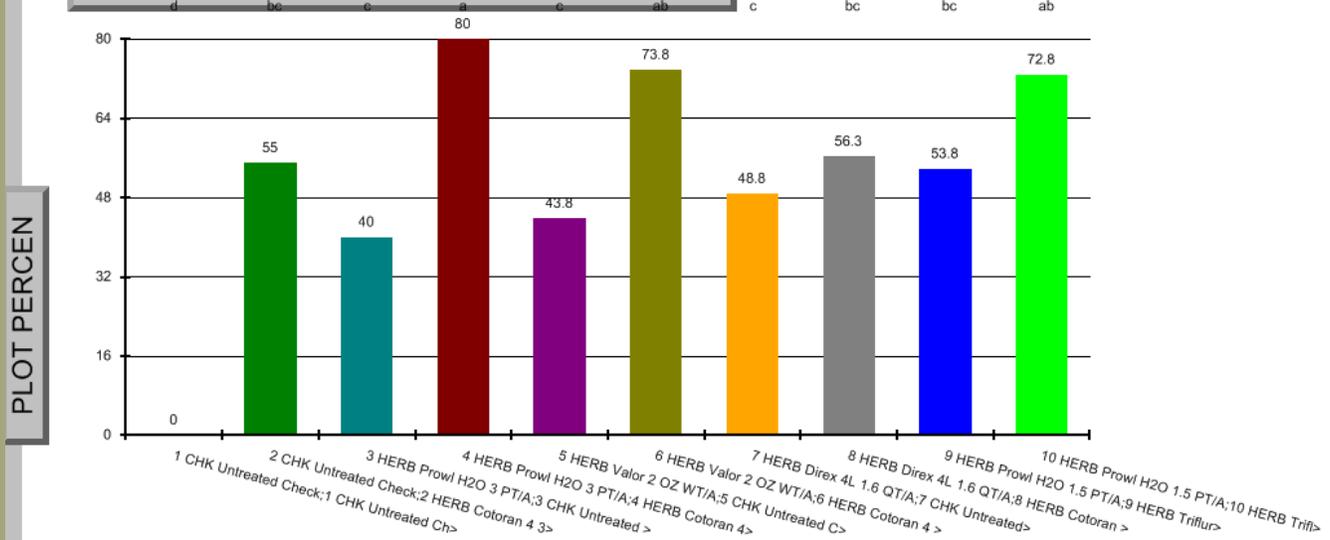
Trt	Code	Description
1	CHK	1 CHK Untreated Check;1 CHK Untreated Check
2		2 CHK Untreated Check;2 HERB Cotoran 4 3 PT/A
3		3 HERB Prowl H2O 3 PT/A;3 CHK Untreated Check
4		4 HERB Prowl H2O 3 PT/A;4 HERB Cotoran 4 3 PT/A
5		5 HERB Valor 2 OZ WT/A;5 CHK Untreated Check
6		6 HERB Valor 2 OZ WT/A;6 HERB Cotoran 4 3 PT/A
7		7 HERB Direx 4L 1.6 QT/A;7 CHK Untreated Check
8		8 HERB Direx 4L 1.6 QT/A;8 HERB Cotoran 4 3 PT/A
9		9 HERB Prowl H2O 1.5 PT/A;9 HERB Trifluralin 1.5 PT/A;9 CHK Untreated Check
10		10 HERB Prowl H2O 1.5 PT/A;10 HERB Trifluralin 1.5 PT/A;10 HERB Cotoran 4 3 PT/A

Latest Residual Weed Trial in No-Till Cotton Results

Our first treatments were made on March 30, 2015 and our Cotoran treatments were made behind the planter on May 18th behind the planter. This week we made the transition from total per plot weed counts to percent weed control per plot.



2015 Residual Weed Control in No-Till Cotton



Trial ID: 2015 residual weed



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For quicker pest alerts-

*Plains Pest
Bugoshere:*

[http://
halecountyipm.blogspot.com/](http://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/)

*Pest Patrol Hotline,
registration at:*

www.syngentapestpatrol.com

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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.***

Iron Chlorosis in Sorghum

Iron is one nutrient that sorghum is not very efficient at up-taking. And when sorghum is planted on shallow soils or caliche hillsides where the calcium ties up much of the soil nutrients, including iron, the plants will certainly let you know about it visually. For year in and year out sorghum producers it is a fairly common sight. For those not accustomed to growing sorghum annually the sight it is quite distressing.

If you are seeing this, I recommend that we first rule out herbicide damage and the like. A quick plant



dissection to the growing point to ascertain its health is a good start.

If the growing point is healthy, then the 'damage' the plant is showing you is not likely to be herbicide

drift, etc., at least not the type that will kill the plant outright. With a healthy growing point, we can determine that the plant will recover and / or carry on fairly quickly. While it still could be some type of residual affecting the plant it is most likely to be iron chlorosis, especially if the chlorosis starts interveinular. Now the question

becomes, "What can we do about it?"

This is a very difficult question to answer as we know that it is likely affecting the yield of any plant showing symptoms. What would seem to be the simplest answer would be to apply iron but this situation is not that straight forward. Iron treatments in any form have never proven to economically impact iron chlorosis in sorghum in decade's worth of trials. We can foliarly apply iron through several sources that will alleviate the symptoms for a time. These over-the-top applications rarely last a few weeks let alone season long. We can also apply additional liquid iron through several methods that should provide the volume of iron needed to see the plant through. Unfortunately after just a few weeks the calcium in these soils rapidly tie up the additional nutrients and bind them in a unusable state. The best suggestion I can make is to treat the important stages of the affected plant. We can try to apply some iron when the plant is setting its head size and if possible at boot, and grain fill and hope we are not losing too much yield.

With my best hypothesis-recommendation I can offer on this subject I can add that Dr. Calvin Trostle, district 2 non-cotton agronomist, has a few trials out right now addressing this problem with differing treatments. Dr. Trostle could have some results next week, but it will be the fall before economic results would be known. We will keep you posted on the Plains Pest Bugoshere as results can be shared.

Blayne Reed