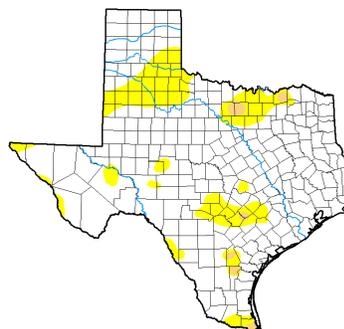


JUNE 9, 2017

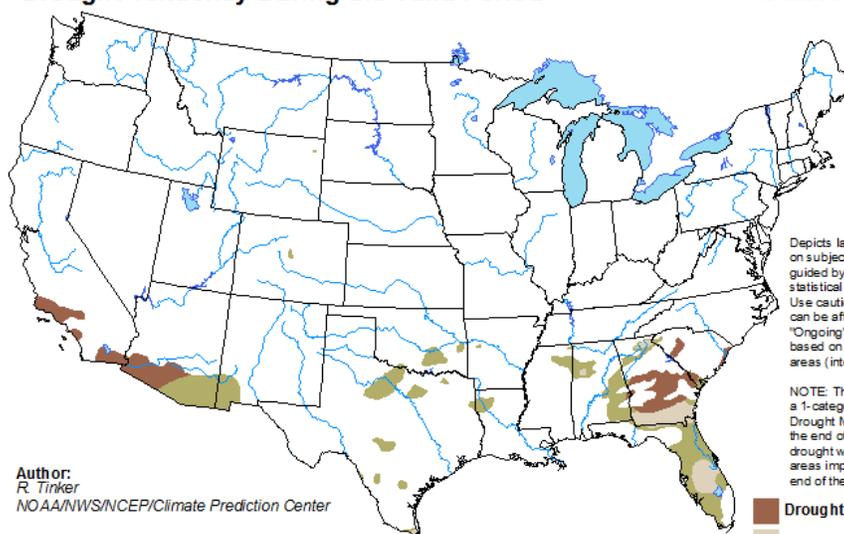
### General Status

Little has changed in our situation from last week as we leave our chances of rain behind for a while and move into the oven. Most of our fields could still use a good rain. What fell this past week was either damaging and very personalized or was not enough to meet with deep moisture. When seedbeds are this dry, little rains do more harm than good by drawing more



### U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 18 - August 31, 2017  
 Released May 18, 2017



Author:  
 R. Tinker  
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

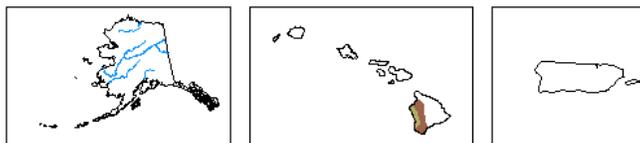
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



moisture out than they put in the top few inches of soil despite some short reprieve with more available moisture before evaporation. Those little rains also form crusts that are either hard for seedlings to push through or tend to blow. Many of our dryland fields planted in the past 17-24 days remain distastefully dry and likely failing with several germinated - then desiccated, seeds and

seedlings. I still do not note much widespread replanting at this time as producers and consultants are still evaluating situations and options. Those dryland and drip irrigated fields where dry/hard seeds can be found still in the seedbed have a chance to germinate and establish if moisture is somehow received from above quickly. Despite dry conditions, most irrigated cotton fields and grain crops planted earlier are in pretty good shape by having tapped into deeper soil moisture or by irrigation. Challenges are here and emerging quickly.

## Weeds

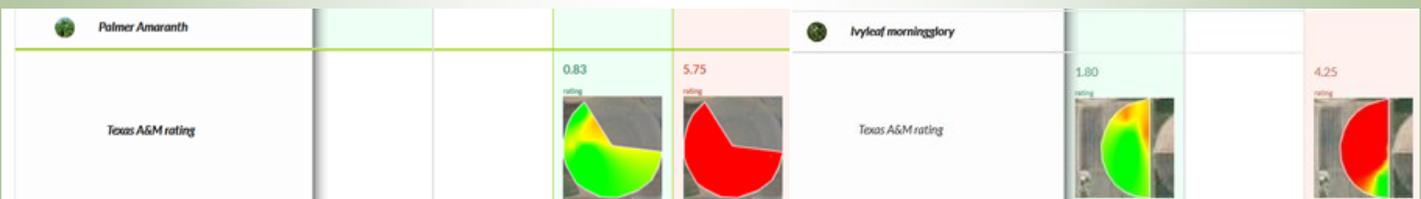
By short rainfall, and certainly by irrigation, young weeds are flushing in our scouting fields in a very big way. We began picking up these tiny little nuisances about mid-week. It is clear that residual herbicides are holding a good line and reaping dividends this week. Unfortunately, it is rarely 100% control. Depending on weed IPM plan and residual investment, I estimate the residuals are holding 60-99% of the germinating weeds at bay compared to unprotected ground. Most fields are running about 70-75% control. In problem fields and weed pockets, this can certainly result in quite a few tiny weed seedlings trying to carpet the ground. For a few more days, these weeds will still be small, healthy, tender, and most importantly, as susceptible as they are going to be. This is one issue I recommend staying well in front of and the time to make the next step in your weed IPM plan might be here already.



View of emerged weeds in a NW Hale cotton field from standing.



Closeup of emerged pigweeds from 12" above in the same NW Hale cotton field.



Heat maps indicating our 0-10 scouted weed pressure rating change over one week for two NW Hale cotton fields and two weed species. Both fields had a few weed pressure areas last week. This week, we found the fresh weed germination.

## Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management fields ranged in stage from dry seed to 4<sup>th</sup> true leaf stage with most being between cotyledon and 2<sup>nd</sup> leaf stage. Thrips remain our main insect pest concern this week while our beneficial populations are almost nonexistent. I hear reports from Lubbock and other areas farther south and west that thrips are spotty or troublesome in areas. That is true for southern Hale and Floyd also but **from Hale Center north I would consider the pressure well above average.** This has abated some from a few weeks ago when they were ridiculous to the north, now they are only above average. Our thrips populations ranged from no thrips found in field up to 4.39 thrips per true leaf stage. Most fields to the south of Hale Center ranged between 0.08 thrips per true leaf and 1.23 thrips per true leaf. Most fields to the north ranged between 0.67 thrips per true leaf and 2.7 thrips per true leaf.

By now several fields have been treated for thrips control. We are seeing good efficacy but continued pressure. For example, a northern Hale field had 7.23 thrips per true leaf on Friday prior to treatment for thrips control. On Wednesday this week, 5 DAT, this field had 0.83 thrips per true leaf stage, a population still worth keeping an eye on until fields move past economic thrips damage.

The next pest that we will be keeping an eye out for as cotton our earliest fields move past 4<sup>th</sup> leaf stage and hopefully move into reproductive mode (if not set too far back by thrips) will be fleahoppers. Until cotton gets large enough for drop cloths or sweep nets, the only way to check for fleahoppers remains whole plant inspections. The economic threshold is 35 out of 100 cotton terminals infested with adults or nymphs and associated fruit loss above 10% or so.



Untreated southwestern Hale cotton with only 0.17 thrips per leaf and little pressure expected.



Yet untreated central Swisher cotton with 1.44 thrips per leaf and heavy pressure expected.



Northern Hale field that held 7.23 thrips per leaf before treatment, beginning to recover with 0.83 thrips per leaf and more pressure expected.



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**For quicker pest alerts-**

*Plains Pest  
Bugshere:*

<http://>

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

*Pest Patrol Hotline,  
registration at:*

[www.syngentapestpatrol.com](http://www.syngentapestpatrol.com)

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***We're on the air...***

*"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.*

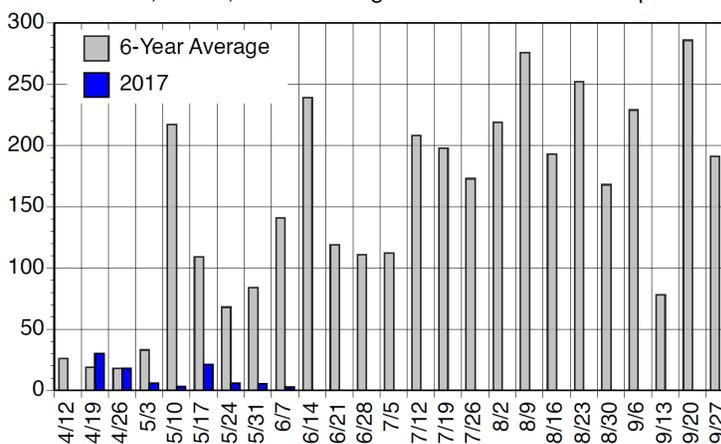


## Corn & Sorghum

Our only program corn field comes in this week at V6 to V7 vegetative growth stage while our early planted sorghum is at V5 to V6 and late planted still seed in the bag. We still have no real pest

pressure to speak of in these fields. The area's weed flush does not seem to be a hearty in these few heavily residual backed fields. If herbicide treatments on any corn or sorghum of similar age seem justified, especially those involving new residual applications, please consult the label. Many residual herbicides in corn and sorghum have application restrictions above V5 stage or so. This is when these plants are setting ear or head size and heavy doses of herbicides and restrict and retard that development or worse.

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



Our Hale, Swisher, & Floyd bollworm moth traps are placed and gathering data that will be available in next week's newsletter.

*Blayne Reed*