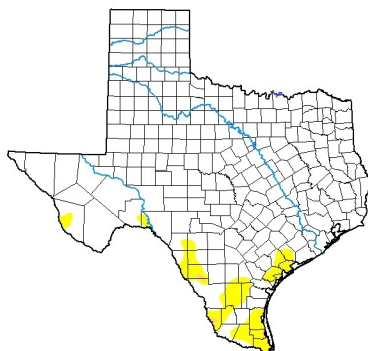


JUNE 7, 2019

General Status

It has been one of the toughest planting seasons on record for the area, even surpassing the last two rough starting seasons of 2017 & 2018. Replacing drought or severe storms have been an area wide rainy month that limited the cotton planting window with wet fields and largely unacceptable cool temperatures and poor soil conditions. Of course, these rains have not been absent of severe weather conditions that demolish otherwise healthy, freshly emerged fields. These have been localized in size but not hard to find in the area with the only question being which storm or wind did this and / or the most damage. The established grain crops have been doing fine with the rains and temperatures, even if a few leaves are a bit tattered now. Younger sorghum might be an exception with some rain events heavy enough to move enough soil to cover much of the stand and/or wind high enough to actually kill some of the young plants. With its temperamental germination and establishment techniques, cotton has certainly had the most difficulties as the fields were planted around the various weather hurdles. All and all, there remains a general hope that is surviving today, and barring farther severe weather, most stands of all crops should grow off or through much of these early difficulties if given half a chance.

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



June 4, 2019
(Released Thursday, Jun. 6, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	93.83	6.17	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week (5-25-2019)	94.24	5.76	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (3-05-2019)	45.04	54.06	19.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (1-01-2019)	62.99	7.01	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (9-25-2018)	57.46	42.54	20.19	7.03	0.96	0.00
One Year Ago (6-05-2018)	21.20	78.80	44.37	23.44	7.29	1.59

Intensity
 None D2 Severe Drought
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate 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 Sinner
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Plainview Heat Unit Calculator

Cumulative Heat Unit Calculator		
Start Date	Corn	End Date
4/24/2019		9/10/2019
Total Heat Units		619.30
Start Date	Cotton	End Date
5/24/2019		10/10/2019
Total Heat Units		85.95

Extended Forecast for Plainview TX

This Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 80 °F

Cotton

If you can name an ailment for seedling cotton, we have found it in our crop this week. Our surviving scouting program cotton fields range in stage from just germinated to 3rd true leaf stage with the majority ranging from pushing-breaking the crust to cotyledon stage. Despite all of the establishment ailments and planting difficulties, it is my opinion that the only fields we have completely lost so far are from severe weather and hail. This is a surprisingly small amount so far. All fields have had some stand reduction resulting from multiple causes. 100% of our fields have 'cold shock' at some level, wireworm pressure with variable damage, a menagerie of seedling diseases and blights of varying severity, and an assortment of weather damage ranging from hail, wind, and static caused by wind, and thick shank from crusting soil. Still most of our irrigated fields are ranging between 26,000 and 38,000 plants per acre (PPA) with a few coming in over 50,000 PPA on one extreme to total failure/hail out on the other. Whether or not these seedling ailments have lasting affects that will impact yields in the long term we do not know at this time. They certainly have the potential to, particularly the cold shock. Many times, good weather and a bit of calm weather and time will see these plants develop past these issues. On the other hand, checking your roots and stalks to see if the cold shock has left enough of your plants debilitated and hampered with abnormalities for the year would be good to know. We should be able to tell by July 4th or so.



Well established cotton at 35,600 PPA from southwest Hale this week.

Deciding whether or not to keep fields has been on the forefront of most of our decision making this week. Research has



Field in central Hale with a few more issues has established at 28,600 PPA but still viable today.

shown, and other recent data has confirmed that for irrigated cotton, a minimum of 27,000 PPA with limited gaps over 1 foot is needed for 2 bale per acre yields and 31,000 with even fewer gaps are needed for 2-3 bale plus yields. The minimum number for dry-land is about 17,000 PPA. To find what stand you might have surviving in your fields, please follow this link to an article on our blog we published a few years ago: [https://](https://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/2017/06/taking-cotton-stand-counts-getting.html)

halecountyipm.blogspot.com/2017/06/taking-cotton-stand-counts-getting.html

Our 'usual' issues for early June have been largely quiet so far. Thrips do not tend to do well under continuous rainy situations. Likewise, our thrips numbers per true leaf have been light, running below 0.2 per true leaf for most fields. There are a few exceptions, but only in areas that have gotten a few days reprieve from rain, winds, and clouds that also have drying wheat nearby. In this rare combination today, I ran 2.1 thrips per true leaf stage. The **economic threshold for thrips in seedling cotton is 1 thrips per true leaf stage**. Insecticidal seed



Photo of heavy thrips damage on young cotton.

treatments should still be providing some control, likely until 2nd to 3rd leaf stage but the environmental conditions will be challenging that longevity as we move forward. Beneficial populations in cotton have been almost non-existent so far.

Corn & Sorghum

Our program corn fields are ranging between V4 and V6 and our sorghum fields are between an intended late planting seed in the bag and V4 with most that have been planted around V2-3. Most of these established fields have taken the month of May and



A corn field in Hale County this week.

its wet, cold weather in stride with the exception of some young sorghum that was greatly reduced in stand. These two types of grass crops are more cool tolerant than cotton, but not immune to cold shock. We have not noted any clues in our program fields for cold shock yet. For most crops of this nature it is also almost impossible to realistically 'hail' out as the growing point remains below ground until about V5-7, and difficult until V9-10. By that late vegetative whorl stage, the growing point is high enough and there is enough stalk available that the plant will depend on later that could be damaged.

The only pests we have noted in these crops are a few Banks grass mite colonies starting around the edges of some corn fields adjacent to CRP grass or wheat. We will need to watch these spots over time as they will be the first site the mites flare later in the year if they become an issue. Despite a desperate May and early June work and stress level, we should remind everyone that most over-the-top corn herbicide product labels call for their product to go out before V5 to avoid yield damage from the herbicide.



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

***Pest Patrol Hotline,
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We're on the air...

"All Ag. All Day"

Check out our IPM updates with the crew from *All Ag, All Day*—900 AM KFLP or 800 AM KDDD

Weeds

Following most rain events, and usually irrigation events, the weeds take the opportunity to flush as many weeds through our residual controls as possible. May has been no exception. Please note any breakdown in residual quickly and catch

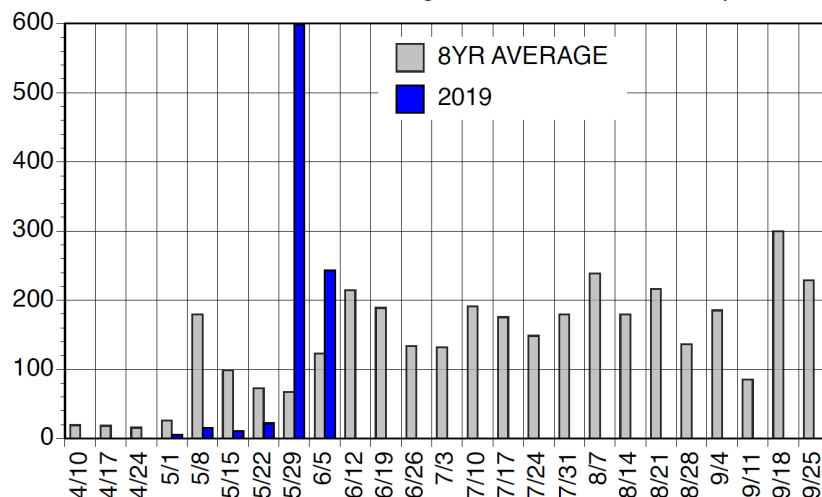


Freshly emerged pigweed in a northwestern Floyd cotton field this week.

any surviving weeds at a small stage, when they can be controlled easier, cheaper, and better.

We noted these pigweeds just emerging in a northwestern Floyd field this week.

Average number of fall armyworm moths per trap per week, Lubbock, Texas, 2019. Averages are based on two traps.



We have set our Hale, Swisher, & Floyd bollworm moth traps this week...

fresh data by next week...

Blayne Reed