

Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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Status

Corn is up around the county with good stands. Wheat is in boot or headed, with some early fields already flowering. Disease pressure continues to be of concern with flag leaves out and lots of rain expected over the next few days.

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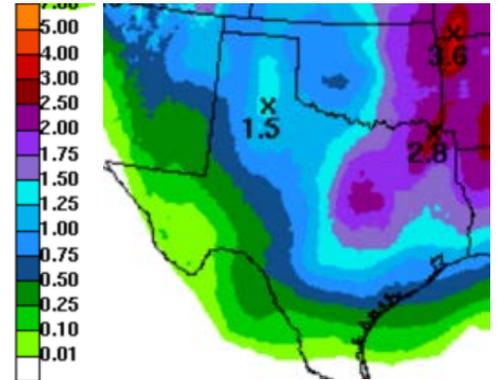
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Weather

In the next seven days, the Blacklands are expected to receive up to 2" of rain starting with a thunderstorm tomorrow (National Weather Service). Most of the fields here in the county could use a good rain, and some are even showing the beginnings of drought stress with leaf curling. Unfortunately, with corn just fertilized, the moisture could cause some denitrification issues.



7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast
 (National Weather Service)

Wheat

Several small colonies of English grain aphids (picture right) have been seen in the wheat, but otherwise aphid colonies remain scarce. English grain aphids are not a concerning pest in the Blacklands most years. Greenbugs and bird cherry-oat aphids remain in very low numbers. This can largely be attributed to the booming populations of beneficial insects, including ladybugs, lacewings, syrphid flies, and parasitoid wasps.



Many fields have been treated for leaf rust (pictured left) in the last week. Treating at boot is good timing to get maximum protection of the flag leaf through flowering, which is when rust on the flag leaf causes the most yield loss. Planes and ground rigs have both been used on the wheat at this stage. Either is fine, as long as you get enough gallons of water to get good penetration into the canopy, but many producers prefer to fly the fungicide because tractors will cause some yield loss by lodging wheat under the tires. Wide booms (90' and up) combined with narrow rear tires will cause minimal losses, about 1-3% of the total yield.

Wheat: From the Field



Septoria leaf blotch can be found in low levels in most wheat fields.



This patch of stunted wheat has barley yellow dwarf virus. The symptoms are more obvious now that wheat is taller.



These heavy flecking and yellowing symptoms continue to persist on the lower leaves of the majority of wheat fields. These plants were tested and no viral pathogens (including wheat streak mosaic virus) were detected. There was a report of wheat streak mosaic widespread in some field in Williamson County. As long as this yellowing stays on the lower leaves, we should not see much of a yield loss from it. Fields should be scouted now for rust pustules reaching the flag leaves.