

# Blacklands IPM Newsletter

Xandra Morris, EA-IPM | P.O. Box 318 Hillsboro, TX 76645 | Xandra.Morris@ag.tamu.edu | 254-582-4022

For timely pest updates and agriculture news, be sure to follow our [Facebook page](#) and [blog](#).

## Status

We needed rain and we got it, but way too much of it. Fields are soaked and will take time to dry out enough for weed control and insect management to continue. Keep an eye out for weed escapes, patches of pigweeds can be seen in many fields.

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## News and Articles

This recent interview with Dr. Katie Lewis, an AgriLife soil scientist, is chock full of great information about soil [fertility management](#).

Read this article for the latest news on the battle for [neonicotinoid seed treatments](#).

There is a brand new publication on [wireworms in cotton](#) with up-to-date information on scouting techniques and control options.

Check out this article for information on ongoing investigations into outbreaks of [bacterial blight in cotton](#). Management techniques include plowing under infected plant material and choosing resistant varieties.

## Cotton

Cotton ranges from 1 to 5 true leaves. A lot of the cotton was sprayed for thrips last week, but sprays only give you about five days of protection. Populations continue to grow as fast as the cotton does, so keep scouting regularly.



Cotton aphids, which range widely in color, have been seen in most fields. It's common to see aphids being guarded by red imported fire ants, which makes it difficult for predators and parasites to get to them. You can add that to the fire ants' list of transgressions.

## Sorghum

Sugarcane aphids remain in low numbers across the county. Our beneficials seem to be hard at work on what little we have. Like in cotton, fire ants can be found protecting colonies of SCA and harvesting the honeydew they produce. The colony pictured right was able to grow to over 200 aphids because the ants protect them from the predators. The rest of the field was nearly completely clean.

