

# Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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## Status

The inch of rain we got on Monday is keeping producers out of the fields, but warm temperatures continue to dry out our soils rapidly. Many producers still struggle to keep pigweeds under control. Most corn is in the dough stage, and milo ranges from flowering to milk.

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## Cotton

Most cotton is at matchhead square, with some at first 1/3<sup>rd</sup> grown square. Early adult bollworm moths are beginning to lay eggs in the cotton. As you walk the fields, you can see the occasional large, tan-colored moth fly out of the rows. Eggs can be found on the youngest leaves, bracts, and stems in the terminals of lush cotton.

Only white (unhatched) eggs have been seen so far in Hill County, but eggs usually hatch in about 3-4 days. Small larvae will first feed on tender leaves before moving to attack the squares.

Egg counts are not used as indicators for the need of a treatment, but they can give you a good idea of the moth activity for a field. Thresholds for treatment depend on the number of worms that survive to the late first or second larval stage. Check out this handy guide for more info on [Bt cotton](#), including the new Bt technologies available this year.

Second, and hopefully last, treatments are going out for fleahoppers in some fields. Thrips are no longer a concern. Stinkbugs have not been seen in any fields yet. Beneficial activity is good in most fields, with *Scymnus* ladybeetles (larva pictured left, adult pictured right), spiders, big-eyed bugs, and minute pirate bugs.



## From the Experts: Dr. David Kerns

Bollworm egg lay began last week in southern and central Texas, and bollworm populations are severe in many areas. One Widestrike cotton field had 40% square loss in the upper part of the plants and nearly every terminal had larvae feeding in it. Twinlink varieties are also seeing high injury, and Bollgard II has some as well.

*(continued below)*



Young bollworm larva on boll

## From the Experts

Consider using Prevathon (chlorantraniliprole) or Besiege for high infestations. 14-19 oz/acre of Prevathon will give you 3 weeks of worm control. If choosing pyrethroids, consider that they may flare aphids and spider mites due to their effects on beneficial insects. Also keep in mind that there is the possibility of pyrethroid-resistant populations. Catch worms early, because once they get down into the canopy to feed on larger bolls they are harder to control.

Bollworms have also been high in milo. They are easier to kill in the grainheads as compared to cotton, and populations of smaller worms (first or second instar) are typically controlled well by pyrethroids. For larger worms, use the lowest label rate of Prevathon, or Besiege. Prevathon has good residual action and typically only requires one treatment.

Besiege (active ingredient of Prevathon plus a pyrethroid) can be used at 7-10 oz/acre and has action against stinkbugs. If you have high stinkbug populations as well, consider spiking with more pyrethroid to knock them down since it has a low concentration of pyrethroid. Blackhawk is another option, it has the same residual action as a pyrethroid and should be used at 1.5-2 oz/acre.

**Information provided by Dr. David Kerns, State IPM Coordinator**



Corn earworm, cotton bollworm, and sorghum headworm are all names for *Helicoverpa zea*. Sorghum headworms are a complex of both earworms and fall armyworms.



Headworm damage



*Helicoverpa zea* adult