

Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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Status

Producers are cutting silage across the county this week and pits are beginning to pile up quickly. There are nothing but hot, sunny days in the near future, which will help cotton grow quickly. Sugarcane aphids are still quiet in the milo fields.

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Cotton

Cotton ranges from matchhead square to first bloom. Bollworm egg lay continues to increase steadily, and pheromone traps are beginning to pick up low numbers of adults. Newly hatched larvae can be found occasionally, feeding on the squares. Square drop from larval damage has been well below 1% in scouted fields. See below for the recommended thresholds for bollworm and tobacco budworm in Bt cotton:

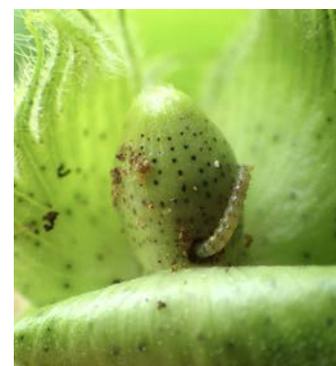
Whole Plant Inspection Method: Bollworm and Tobacco Budworm Action Threshold Based on Number of Larvae per 100 Plants

Cotton Stage	Worm Size	Cotton Type	
		Non-Bt	Bt
Before bloom	All	≥ 30% damaged squares and worms present	
After boll formation	≤ 0.25 inches	10-15 worms per 100 plants	Do not treat
	> 0.25 inches	8-12 worms per 100 plants	8-12 worms > 0.25 inches per 100 plants with >5% damaged fruit

Fields that have accumulated 350 DD60s beyond 5 NAWF are no longer susceptible to first or second instar bollworm/tobacco budworm larvae. If two or more key predators (see discussion under Scouting Decisions) are found for each small worm, control measures may not be needed or a microbial insecticide may be considered in non-Bt cotton.



Picture left: Even small amounts of chewing damage by larvae will cause young squares to flare and drop.



Picture right: A 3-4 day old bollworm larva feeding on a square. Photo by Kate Harrell, EA-IPM in the Upper Coast.

Milo

Sugarcane aphid populations are growing but remain in very low numbers in most fields. Beneficial insects, mostly syrphid flies and scymnus ladybeetles, are high and can be seen eliminating aphid colonies on the leaves.

Field should be scouted weekly for headworms as moths move from drying corn into milo fields. Stinkbugs have been seen on heads close to field borders as well. Most fields are past flowering so midge is no longer a concern.



Rice stinkbugs in milo head