

# Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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## Status

We've had a very wet week after the rains over the weekend, but things are beginning to dry out and days are heating up. Sorghum is heading and flowering, most corn should be at milk stage, and cotton varies from 3-4 true leaves to pinhead square stage.

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## News and Articles

This recent article by Robert Bowling has some good [information for sugarcane aphid \(SCA\) management](#). He explains what usually happens to SCA populations after a big rain event (like we just had here in the Blacklands). He also gives a quick review of what is happening in the field, including how insecticides and tolerant varieties are performing.

A&M researchers are exploring [hybrid pearl millet](#) as an alternative to hay grazer (forage sorghum), due to it being a poor host for SCA.

## Cotton

Most cotton is out of the danger zone for thrips damage. After about the 5-true leaf stage, thrips will still be present and feeding but the rapid growth of the cotton negates their economic impact. Scouting for fleahoppers (picture below) should begin now, as squares are beginning to form.



Picture from cottonbugs.tamu.edu

Late-planted fields and fields with weedy borders may have higher fleahopper infestations. Fortunately, scouting fleahoppers is simple. Check 25 plants at four random locations across the field: look at the main terminal for fleahopper nymphs or adults. They are quick and will scurry or fly off when disturbed. Try not to jostle or let your shadow fall over the plants you're about to check.

Weed control efforts still continue. Glyphosate-resistant pigweeds are being controlled well with our new herbicides (picture left), and producers who utilized long-residual preemergence herbicides are having good success.

The picture to the right shows a pigweed that was damaged by either hand-hoeing or row cultivation and decided it was time to go straight to seed (credit for this explanation goes to Joel Webb, EA-IPM in Tom Green and Runnels). Even this 6" tall plant can produce thousands of seeds that will all be glyphosate resistant.

