



Partners With Nature

Blacklands IPM Update



GENERAL:

Wheat harvest is well underway, and yields report are ranging from upper 50s to 80 bushels per acre wheat. Cotton planting is wrapping up for most producers and ranges from just planted up to match head squares in some fields. Corn is pollinating and the rain predicted for today would help get this crop to maturity as most of our fields are in the stage of peak water demand. Sugarcane aphid populations in sorghum remain low, with a few beneficials showing up in the fields.

WHEAT:

Now that we are at wheat harvest, I have received a few inquiries about submitting seed samples to be tested for the black chaff pathogen in the seed. Thankfully Dr. Ken Obasa, Extension Plant Pathologist in Amarillo has decided to offer testing for this seedborne disease. Testing will cost \$50.00 per sample, and samples need to be about 10 grams which is about 300-500 seeds. A subsample of 200 random seeds from the sample will be tested. Samples should be placed in a paper bag or envelope, or a plastic resealable baggie. Samples should be labeled in a manner that you will be able to know what results goes with each sample, and where that sample was taken. When mailing the samples, you want to avoid sending the sample where it would be sitting in a warehouse over the weekend. This lack of climate-controlled environment could potentially throw off the sample results. The sample submission form will need to be completed, and one form must be completed for each sample submitted. The form and more information about submitting samples to the Texas High Plains Plant Diagnostic Lab can be found at: <https://amarillo.tamu.edu/amarillo-center-programs/extension-plant-pathology/texas-plant-diagnostic-clinic-thppdl/>.

COTTON:

Our early planted cotton fields are currently squaring and are at risk for fleahopper damage. Fleahopper damage cotton by using their piercing sucking mouthpart to puncture the squares of cotton to extract juices from the square. This feed will lead to the square turning yellow with flared bracts and eventually the square will be shed by the plant. The economic threshold for fleahopper in the Blacklands is 10 to 15 fleahopper per 100 terminals during squaring. Most of the cotton fields that are up have not started squaring yet and are still susceptible to thrips damage. As wheat in the area continues to be cut, our young cotton becomes more susceptible to thrips damage. The good thing is that our environmental conditions are favorable for quick plant growth, giving cotton the chance to outgrow the thrips damage quickly. Remember the economic threshold for thrips is 1 thrips per true leaf.

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