



Blacklands IPM Update



GENERAL:

Recent rains have halt wheat harvest around parts of Hill County while most of McLennan County has remained dry enough for wheat harvest to continue. Cotton fields are growing quickly and most of the acres are susceptible to thrips damage, but our early planted cotton fields are becoming susceptible to fleahoppers. Cotton fleahoppers have moved into a few squaring cotton fields in the scouting program and are at treatable populations. Corn fields range from mid-pollination to the milk stage depending on planting date. Corn rust is also starting to show up in area corn fields, with lesions of both common rust and southern rust being observed in a corn field on the east side of Hill County.

COTTON:

Cotton growth for fields in the scouting program range from 1 true leaf stage up to matchhead squares in some fields. Most of the cotton in the scouting program has not started squaring yet and is still susceptible to thrips damage. I did see a few fields on Monday (6/3) that appeared to have thrips damage on leaves and terminals. Scouting the number of thrips present did not indicate that the damage was caused by thrips, but the recent high winds blowing sand and clay particles into the plant causing small abrasions on the tender plant tissue lead to drying of the tissue. At the rate our cotton is growing, most of the acres could grow out of thrips susceptibility.

Cotton fleahoppers have moved into area cotton fields that are squaring and are at levels well above the economic threshold of 10-15 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. This insect will remain a pest of cotton until we start blooming. The fleahopper uses it piercing sucking mouthpart to feed on young tender squares, and this feeding will cause the square to turn brown and fall off the plant, which can reduce yield potential and push back the first bloom date. Fleahopper adults are pale green to greyish green with white eyes, while the nymphs are light green with red eyes. These fleahopper populations moved into the fields quickly as I had checked the field 4 days prior with only seeing two fleahoppers across the whole field. There are a number of insecticides labeled to manage cotton fleahoppers and include oxamyl (Vydate C-LV 3.77) acephate (Orthene 97, Acephate 90 Prill and generics), acetamiprid (Intruder Max 70 WP/Stafer Max and generics), flonicamid (Carbine 50WG), thiamethoxam (Centric 40WG), imidacloprid (Alias 4S) and dicotophos (Bidrin 8EC and generics).

Aphids are also present in some area cotton fields, in the scouting program only one field has a aphid population and averages 3 aphids per leaf. The 3 aphids per leaf population is well below the economic threshold. The economic threshold for aphids in cotton depend on if there are cracked bolls in the field, and currently the economic threshold is 40-70 aphids per leaf. Much like cotton fleahopper there numerous insecticides labeled to manage aphids in cotton, some of which control both aphids and fleahoppers. These insecticides include flupradifurone (Sivanto 200SL), flonicamid (Centric 50WG), Acetamiprid (Intruder Max 70WP/Stafer Max and generics), and dicotophos (Bidrin 8EC and generics).

Right now it is important to survey fields for all insect pest present. If a field is going to be sprayed for fleahoppers and aphids are present, we need to either 1) select an insecticide that will manage our fleahopper population but preserve our beneficial insect populations or 2) select an insecticide that manages both our fleahopper and aphid population. If we manage fleahopper population and wipe out our beneficial insect population with aphids we could see a flare up aphids as well as other insect pests.

CORN & SORGHUM

Corn is growing good and ranges from mid-pollination to the milk stage. Insect damage remains light, but on Monday I was in a corn field and saw a few earworm eggs on silk bundles. This could be an indication that earworms are starting to move into corn. If you see any unexpected earworm damage, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, while in a corn field on the east side of the county, I found a few rust pustules on corn leaves. The recent weather has been extremely conducive for the development of rust diseases in corn. In corn there are two main rust diseases that can be observed, with only one being economically important. These diseases are common rust, and southern rust. Southern rust can cause economic losses in corn, while common rust rarely reaches a level of causing economic loss. Favorable conditions for southern rust are warm hot moist conditions with an optimum temperature range of 77-104 F, while common rust is favored by cooler moist weather with an optimum temperature range of 60-77 F. Symptoms of southern rust include circular orange pustules that are slightly raised above the leaf surface. Southern rust pustules are primarily seen on the upper leaf surface but can be found on stalks and husks. Infection of southern rust starts in the lower canopy and progresses up the plant. Common rust symptoms include elongated dark red pustules, and their pustules can be observed on either the upper or lower leaf surface. Yield loss caused by southern rust comes primarily from a reduced kernel weight. There is an extensive number of fungicides that are effective against southern rust in corn, including the Strobilurin group (azoxystrobin, etc.) Triazole group (Propiconazole, etc.), and Pyrazole-Carboxamide group (bezoviiiflupyr such as Trivapro A). Premixes of two or all three fungicides groups also exist. For more information on fungicides to use, and if and when to treat Dr. Tom Isakeit put together a fact sheet on southern rust in corn, this fact sheet can also be found on the Hill County website under the corn resource tab) on the Hill County IPM page, or at the following link. https://agrilifecd.tamu.edu/coastalben/files/2017/05/Southern-Rust-of-Corn_2017.pdf. If you believe your field(s) has southern rust, but unsure you can contact me and I can come by and look at the field.

Sorghum fields are growing good and a handful of fields are in the boot and close to head emergence. Sugarcane aphids remain present in area fields, but still well below the economic threshold. I have received confirmation Monday from a trusted private consultant that sugarcane aphids are on sorghum in western McLennan County near Crawford. Talking with the consultant the colonies are still very small and well below the economic threshold, but is a sign that sugarcane aphids are actively moving into sorghum around the area.

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