

WEST
PLAINS
IPM
UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley,
Cochran, and
Lamb Counties
from
Kerry Siders

Sept. 5 2019

Vol. 24 – No. 14

Current Crop and Pest Situation

Grain sorghum ranges from boot to hard dough on early planted acres. Those acres which have not developed a grain head yet should not worry about protecting it from pests. The economics are just not there. These acres at best will serve as a good cover crop. Those acres which have flowered and are making grain could have time to mature and may be worth protecting from sugarcane aphids and other pest such as stink bugs. Isolated rains may have improved the prospects on some of these acres. So, sugarcane aphids (SCA) are still sporadic and not exploding in numbers. Stay with the thresholds. Here is a link to the Grain Sorghum Insect Guide:

<https://agrifecdn.tamu.edu/extensionento/files/2019/02/Managing-Insect-and-Mite-Pests-of-Texas-Sorghum-ENTO-085-2018.pdf> . Worms have not been much concern to-date, but stink bugs have. YOU MUST SCOUT!

In **peanuts** I am not concerned now with foliage feeders or other insect pests. The incidence of disease has been variable to date with the warm temps. However, with shorter days, not as high of temps and heavy dews, I would have some foliage protection out for the next couple weeks to maintain vine health.

The **cotton** crop is safe from most all insect pests currently, other than cotton aphids. We do still have low numbers of cotton aphids, but most are not increasing in numbers. The physiology of the plant has changed such that it is no longer supporting these aphids feeding habits. Verticillium wilt has become more pronounced the past couple of weeks, especially with the recent rains. Make note of those fields which have vert wilt and select a variety next season for those fields which will be more tolerant. Now is still an excellent time to sample the soil for cotton root-knot nematode infestation. This will help determine level of management you will need to use next year as well.

Now for some new not-so-good news. We have found what is known as Southwestern Cotton Rust in eastern Cochran county. This disease was noted in west Gaines county recently as well. From what we understand the primary inoculum is believed to be blown in from the Trans-Pecos area. Our new Extension Plant Pathologist, Dr. Cecilia Monclova-Santana is investigating this disease. On the next page you will see a few pictures which may help you identify the disease if you see it in your fields.

To the right is the southern cotton rust lesion as seen on the top side of an infected cotton leaf. (K. Siders, 2019)



Then when you look at the underside of the leaf you will see these yellow aecia cups (rust spores) as seen here to the left. (K. Siders, 2019)



HOCKLEY COUNTY
**AG PRODUCER
APPRECIATION**
Shrimp Boil

September 10, 2019

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Mallet Event Center & Banquet Hall

Kindly RSVP to 806.894.3157

**“What is Gene Drive Technology and Why Should Texans Care?”
Gregory A. Sword | Department of Entomology | Texas A&M University**

We will see you next Tuesday, September 10th, starting at 11:30a for the annual Ag Producer Appreciation “Shrimp Boil” at the Mallet Event Center; great food, great fellowship, and a really interesting presentation on “Gene Drive Technology”, the next generation of insect, weed, and disease management.

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