

WEST
PLAINS
IPM
UPDATE

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

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CROP AND PEST SITUATION

Hot, dry, windy conditions have continued to be the primary factor determining the fate of our crops. Forecast calls for more moderate temperatures starting Sunday through middle of next week, with a chance of precipitation.

These conditions have made it very difficult to keep up with crop water demands, and subsequently even turning water on. If you consider that a cotton plant which is squaring (small percentage of fields right now) will use approximately 0.22" water daily and our evapotranspiration rate can be well over 0.25" daily. So, figure needing just shy of 0.50" every day. This moisture is either needs to be delivered by an irrigation system or from stored moisture in the soil. The use curve goes up considerably as we go into bloom and boll development.

So, the point now is to make any water you apply count. Obviously drip irrigation has the advantage in these situations in terms of application efficiency. On pivots, low drops or drags are best. Any method of management to squeeze just another tenth or two of efficiency out of your water will go a long way. Volunteer cotton in the row middles represents cotton which will not be harvested, takes precious moisture and nutrients, and will create more volunteer. Plow it out as soon as possible.

Cotton, represented by the IPM Scouting Program fields, is averaging 6.5 true leaves or nodes (range of cotyledon to 9 nodes); there are 0.8 squares per plant out of 0.8, for a %100 retention (range of squares is 0 – 4 per plant), and first fruiting position is 6.6 node; plants are averaging 0.5" per total internode length; average plant population (irrigated only) is averaging 27,500 plants per acre (range of 19,500 – 41,000 plants per acre).

Insect pests are few and far between. Not seeing much other than an occasional thrips and hooded beetles (not considered a pest). I am seeing various moths and millers working weeds in field margins (cutworms, fall armyworms etc.) but not seeing much activity in weed managed fields. I have taken a few sweep net samples in field margins (white weeds, kochia, careless weeds, black medic etc.) and have picked up on a few fleahoppers, no lygus.



West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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Cooperating



UNWANTED OR SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES?

DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY AT **NO COST** AND STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE

Moore County Gin, 11800 US HWY 287 North, Dumas, Texas 79029

ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Outdated, discontinued or unwanted agricultural pesticides
- Insecticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Rodenticides
- Nematicides
- Growth Regulators
- Empty, Triple-Rinsed Plastic Pesticide Containers (55 gal. max)
- Empty or Partial Metal Drums

PESTICIDES MUST BE KEPT IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS, EVEN IF THE LABEL IS NOT PRESENT.

Unknown pesticides will be sampled and identified on site.

MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Explosive ordinances and ammunition
- Petroleum-Based Products
- Paints
- Medical Wastes
- Radioactive Substances
- Household Pesticides, Chemicals, and Waste
- Tires
- Fertilizers, Propane or Butane Cylinders
- Chlorinated Hydrocarbons
- Fumigant Canisters
- Used motor oil and other automobile fluids
- Auto Batteries
- Empty Totes
- Methyl-Bromide Cylinders
- Dioxins (2,4-5T, Silvex, TCDD, etc.)

For questions or additional information contact the Moore County Extension Office at (806) 935-2594, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Lubbock Regional Office at (806) 799-8555, or TDA Austin Headquarters at (512) 463-7622.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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