

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

June 23, 2016

Vol. 21 – No. 4

GENERAL SITUATION

Not to minimize what has occurred to some producers receiving crop damage, but all and all this damage has been fairly isolated compared to the acreage of planted tillable land. So we are holding together still some sizeable acreage with still excellent potential for this time of the growing season.

It is very quiet in respect to insect pests. The scouts and I are not finding much on the cotton plant. I have seen some pests on weeds which may turn their attention to cotton when interest runs out on the weeds. A few fleahoppers can be seen in weedy areas; an occasional adult Lygus as well.

Cotton ranges from 2 true leaves to 10 true leaves, with match-head size squares. Square set is good (+90%) in those scouting fields which are squaring (<10%). No insect induced square losses have been noted to date. I would like to see a majority of fields squaring by this time next week. I say that because that should then give that field time to begin blooming before the end of July.

Most **peanuts** are blooming now. No worm feeding damage has been noted to date, though various moths and millers are working the fields. Weeds are priority for most. Many want to cultivate, which is a very good idea before peanuts run and or peg. Just be careful not to pitch soil to the crown of the plant. Soil covering the crown can increase incidence of pathogens in that area.

My priority list for this week is:

- ✓ **Fertility** - where are you at in reaching your realistic yield goal? Seize the moment to fertilize.
- ✓ **Irrigation** - most plants have rooted as well as they can, do not stress these cotton plants as they move into squaring, you can induce square shed. So irrigate if you do not receive a rain.
- ✓ **Weed control** – hopefully you have your applications of Liberty out now that it is good and hot and humidity is low; and hopefully started on Roundup applications to catch everything else besides the pigweed.
- ✓ **Plant map** - what is the plant telling you? Will it need a plant growth regulator sooner than later with good moisture, heat and fertility? Call if you have questions on this.
- ✓ **Insect scouting** - never let your guard down, watch Lygus and fleahoppers in cotton. I have not found nor received reports of sugarcane aphid in milo. If you find the SCA or suspect them give me a call.

Cotton Fleahopper

The next potential insect pest could be the cotton fleahopper. Though I do not anticipate wholesale problems with this pest I think it is important that we cover some of the biology and management here. Adult fleahoppers are about 1/8 inch long and pale green. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and are light green. They move very rapidly when disturbed. Adults move into cotton from weed hosts when cotton begins to square. Both adults and nymphs suck sap from the tender portion of the plant, including small squares. Pinhead size and smaller squares are most susceptible to damage.



Adult cotton fleahopper

Management and decision making. The decision to apply insecticide should be based on the number of fleahoppers present, the squaring rate and the percent square set. If conditions are conducive to the rapid build-up of cotton fleahoppers in alternate hosts, scouting intervals should be shortened (i.e., monitor fields every 3 to 4 days).



Cotton fleahopper nymph (immature)

During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 85 percent square set. Starting with the third week of squaring up to first bloom, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 75 percent square set.

As plants increase in size and fruit load, larger fleahopper populations can be tolerated without yield reduction. In most years treatment is rarely justified after first bloom. However, occasionally, when cotton plants do not set an adequate square load during the first 3 weeks of squaring, fleahoppers can prevent the square set that is needed for an adequate crop.

Private Pesticide Applicators Training

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) each month. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individuals must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior to the training in Levelland or 806-385-4222 ext 235 by 3pm the day prior to the training in Littlefield, and 806-266-5215 for training in Morton. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

Future PAT Trainings:

- June 27 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- July 28 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- August **TBA** Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- September 22 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- October 27 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- November **TBA** Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- and December 19 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of a training.

See You On The Radio

IPM Radio Program Aglife on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:15 pm.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Hockley County Report on KLVT Levelland, High Plains Radio Network, radio 1230 AM, Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

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

Editor: Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM

Contact information: 1212 Houston St., Suite 2 Levelland, TX 79336

(806) 894-3150 (office),

638-5635 (mobile), or 897-3104 (Fax)

ksiders@tamu.edu (E-mail),

<http://hockley-tx.tamu.edu> (County website)

www.tpma.org (TPMA website)



Partners with Nature

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is implied.

The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating