

Pest Management News
News About integrated pest management for
producers in Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton harvest is finally over after an extended harvest season. Gins are still running hard but expected to get caught up within the next several weeks.

We have received approval for TopGuard use during the 2014 growing season under Section 18 provisions. Cheminova expects Section 3 labeling sometime in the 3rd quarter of this year.

Those of you that need additional CEU's, you can get them Tuesday, February 4th. Details are in the newsletter.

Cotton Variety Trial Information is being written up now and will be available soon.

WHEAT FERTILITY

Hopefully everyone has taken a soil sample and knows what nutrients may be short. Small grains that are grazed need more nitrogen than ungrazed grain. Nitrogen increases forage production, but grazing also removes much of the nitrogen applied in the fall. Stocker cattle gain approximately one pound for every 10 pounds of dry matter consumed. Ten pounds of forage contain 0.4 lbs. of nitrogen. Therefore, additional nitrogen needs to be applied prior to jointing in order to maximize grain production. Base your top dress nitrogen application on potential grain yield (generally 1.5-2.0 lb. of nitrogen is applied for each bushel of estimated yield). So a 25 bushel grain yield would require approximately 50 lbs. of actual nitrogen. More if grazed. If you applied 20 lbs.

of N at planting, then a top dress application of 30 lbs. between now and jointing would be needed. Additional amounts if the wheat fields has been grazed. DO NOT apply N while grazing.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Weeds of all kinds are up and growing in area wheat fields. It's best to control weeds now while they are small. Trying to control older, larger weeds can be very difficult and weeds like wild mustard become more tolerant of chemical control as they age and grow. Sometimes there are advantages of combining herbicide and top-dress nitrogen applications. Combined operations eliminate an application, which saves time, money, and wear and tear on equipment. Many times you get better herbicide performance during adverse environmental conditions and improved control of hard to control weed species.

Key Points to Remember:

- * Applying nitrogen fertilizer with herbicides may improve weed control, but low nitrogen rates are not adequate substitutes for surfactant or crop oil adjuvants.
- * To reduce the potential of foliar nitrogen burn, limit the amount of nitrogen fertilizer in the spray solution to no more than 50 percent by volume when applying herbicides with surfactant or crop oil adjuvant.
- * Unless required on the herbicide label, consider not using a surfactant or crop oil adjuvant with herbicides when liquid nitrogen in the spray solution exceeds 50 percent by volume, **but** be aware that significant foliar burn may still occur and weed control may be reduced. However, if the herbicide label specifies that adjuvant is required, weed control likely will be decreased if it is not included in the spray solution.
- * Avoid making weed-and-feed applications during warm, humid conditions and before expected periods of freezing temperatures that may limit the crop's ability to metabolize the applied herbicide(s).
- * Liquid formulated herbicides, especially emulsifiable concentrates, are more likely to increase foliar nitrogen burn than dry formulated herbicides.
- * Foliar burn from nitrogen fertilizers is temporary and rarely causes yield loss when applied to low fertility fields under favorable environmental conditions before crop jointing.

WILD OAT MANAGEMENT

Wild oat is an annual that reproduces from seed. It germinates best when soil temperatures are cool, so very little wild oat seed germinates during the warm summer months. Wild oat is very competitive. Researchers have indicated that heavy infestations of wild oat can reduce wheat yield by one-third. More recently, research has shown 1 wild oat head per square foot reduced wheat yield by 6 percent. So controlling wild oat early is very important to prevent reduction of grain yield potential.

There are a number of herbicides registered for wild oat control in wheat. Some of them include:

- * Assert® and Avenge® from BASF
- * Puma®, Silverado®, Tiller®, Olympus® and Osprey®, Cheyenne® from Bayer
- * Maverick®, Maverick Pro® from Monsanto
- * Axial® from Syngenta
- * PowerFlex®, Tandem®, Simplicity® from Dow AgroSciences

No herbicide gives 100 percent control, but if used in conjunction with good cultural practices, adequate control can be obtained and herbicide application can be justified economically. Grazing and haying restrictions vary between herbicides and growers should refer to the label for complete information.



CALENDAR INFORMATION

LAST CHANCE CEU TRAINING COURSE, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2014 at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center. Address is 7887 US Hwy 87 North, San Angelo, Tx 76901

If you are planning on attending (RSVP) or for more information, please call the Tom Green County Extension Office at 659-6522 or 659-6524 if you plan on attending. 5 ceu hours are available: 2 General, 1 IPM, 1 Laws & Regs, & 1 Drift Min.

AGENDA:

- 12:30-12:50 Registration
- 12:50-1:00 Welcome and Introductions-Josh Blaneck, Tom Green County Extension Agent
- 1:00-2:00 IPM Control of Fire Ants & Forage Pests-Dr. Charles Allen, Extension Specialist (1-IPM)
- 2:00-3:00 Brush Control Strategies-Josh Blaneck (1 GEN)
- 3:00-3:15 Break
- 3:15-4:15 Pesticide Laws & Regs-Corey Pence, TDA Representative (1 L&R)
- 4:15-5:15 Fruit & Pecan Management-Allison Watkins, Tom Green County Horticulturist (1 GEN)
- 5:15-6:15 Drift Minimization & Equipment Calibration-Dr. Billy Warrick, Retired Extension Agronomist (1 DRIFT)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE AGRIPLEX AG DAY, TUESDAY MARCH 25, 2014 AT THE BALLINGER COMMUNITY CENTER IN BALLINGER, TX. This program is co-sponsored by the Runnels Ag & Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association. Topics of the day include: Farm Bill Update, Weed Resistance Management and Herbicides, Cotton Root Rot Update, Brush Management, and the Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association Annual Meeting. A complimentary noon meal will be provided by local growers, and booth exhibits will be displayed by agribusinesses. Registration begins at 8:00 am.

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS
NEWSLETTER RENEWAL



“Pest Management News” is a newsletter which provides timely, accurate and pertinent information in the areas of crop production within the Southern Rolling Plains. Newsletters are written weekly during the growing season and a total of seventeen were issued in 2013. This newsletter will keep you abreast of current insect pest populations, natural enemies, biological and cultural control tactics and chemical control options. It will also provide the user with economic thresholds and other management tools to assist the farm operator in making management decisions. **NOTE: The subscription fee will be \$15 to cover the cost of postage.** If you are interested in receiving this newsletter during 2014, please fill out subscription form and return along with \$15.00 to “Pest Management News,” 613 Hutchins Ave., Room 302, Ballinger, Tx 76821, payable to “Pest Management News” by April 18, 2014.