



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

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

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GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton is up and looking great. It has made a lot of progress this week with the warm temperatures and sunny days. Cotton ranges in growth from cotyledon to 1/3 grown square stage. Many fields began squaring this week and will need to be monitored closely for the presence of fleahoppers. Interns began scouting this week in Tom Green and Concho Counties and we will expand into Runnels County next week.

There isn't much that can be found in cotton right now. Everything is pretty quiet insect wise. But move into sorghum or haygrazer and it's a different story. Fall armyworms can be found in large numbers in haygrazer and young sorghum right now. Much of the earlier planted sorghum is beginning to bloom. Monitor those fields regularly for presence of headworms and stinkbugs. This year is panning out to be one of those unusual insect years.

Cotton growers need to consider applying a PGR on those varieties which need help in balancing vegetative growth with reproduction growth. Cotton is really responding to the good growing conditions and will be blooming before we know it. Aggressive cotton varieties can be managed much easier when PGR's are applied at pinhead square stage. Most cotton varieties will begin squaring around the 6-7th TL stage.

GRAIN SORGHUM

Much of the sorghum is in the bloom stage. Blooming of a sorghum head usually takes about a week. The first blooms appear at the top or apex of the head. Each day more blooms appear lower down the head, and so on for about a week when the last blooms occur at the base of the head. Therefore, the first blooms at the top of the head are about 7 days older than those at the base.

Corn earworm and fall armyworm infest the whorls and grain heads of sorghum. The larvae feed on developing grain. Small larvae feed on flowering parts of the grain head at first, then hollow out

kernels. Larger larvae consume more kernels and cause the most damage. The last two larval stages cause about 80 percent of the damage. Begin sampling for headworms soon after the field finishes flowering and continue at 5 day intervals until the hard dough stage.



Larvae -picture taken by Palitias Nursery

White-Lined Sphinx

Caterpillars.... A number of folks in Runnels County have experienced a large numbers of these caterpillars migrating out of pastures. Dr. Ed Bynum, Ext. Entomologist in Amarillo, is also reporting this caterpillar



Photo Credit-Howard Pruser, Amateur Photographer

feeding on specific weeds in pastures. The moth is commonly known as the hummingbird moth or the hawk moth and the caterpillars are known as hornworms. Caterpillars widely vary

in color from green with yellow, white and/or black markings, but others are black forms with yellow markings. They can reach up to 3 to 3 ½

inches long and have a distinct spine on the back end. The adults are key pollinators and the larvae commonly feed on purslane, tomatoes, (willow, apple, elm), Portulaca (moss rose), evening primrose, four o'clocks, Fuschia and grapes. Fortunately, they should not be an issue in field crops, but could visit the vegetable garden.



White-lined-Sphinx-(Hyles-lineata)
By Adrian Thyse



www.mobugs.blogspot.com

TURNROW MEETINGS

TURNROW MEETINGS..... Wall Coop at 9:00 am July 8th and July 15th. Ballinger Courthouse, Third Floor, Large Room at 8:30 am on July 9th and July 16th. See you there.