



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

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

*Richard Minzenmayer
Extension Agent-IPM
613 Hutchins Ave., Room 302
Ballinger, Tx 76821
Phone (325) 365-5212 Fax (365) 365-5212
TPMA Website: <http://www.tpma.org>*

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E-mail: r-minzenmayer@tamu.edu
Website: <http://ipm.tamu.edu>
Mobile (325) 365-1292
Runnels County Website: <http://runnels-tx.tamu.edu>*

GENERAL SITUATION

Area crops continue to progress rapidly. Cotton ranges in growth from 1/3 grown square to 5 NAWF (physiological cut-out). Most cotton is going into bloom at 7-9 NAWF. Seems the further West you go, the drier it gets and plants are responding to the heat and drought stress. Dryland cotton in Runnels County continues to look very good and much of it is 7 NAWF. Northern parts of Runnels County received up to 2.5-inches of rain July 29th. We have good chances for rainfall this evening and tomorrow. Pray For Rain. Water use goes up tremendously during the bloom/boll stage. So rainfall right now will set us up for an excellent cotton crop.

Growers are encouraged to monitor their grain sorghum fields closely for the presence of conchuela stink bugs, headworms and now sugarcane aphids. Sugarcane aphids have now been documented in Runnels, Tom Green and Concho Counties. I have not seen severe infestation levels yet but they can be found feeding on the underside of leaves on sorghum which has headed and making grain. The treatment threshold that is currently being used is when 40% of plants are infested and populations are increasing.

Infestations have increased significantly in Coleman, Mills and San Saba counties based on the number of calls I have been receiving. Growers have asked if baling or green chopping was an alternative to spraying an insecticide. Baling the sorghum would certainly be an option but I would suspect that it would take longer to cure and dry down due to excessive honey dew on the leaves. I would assume green chopping would also be an option.

If you choose to spray, Transform®WG @ 1.0 oz./acre has provided excellent control. Use a minimum of 10 gallons of spray solution per acre by ground and/or 5 gallons of spray solution by air.

COTTON

Cotton fleahopper numbers ranged from 0 to 18 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. Square sets ranged from a low of 80% to a high of 98%. The average square set was 89%.

Cotton aphid populations remain very low.

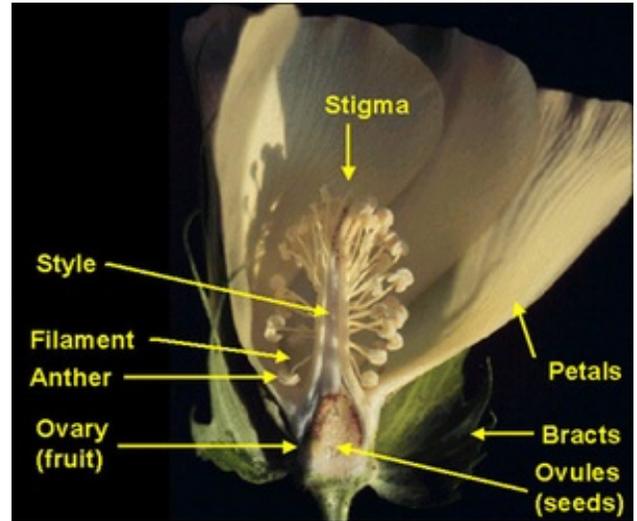
No real insect problems in cotton this week.

Stink bugs are being seen in some area cotton fields. Primarily in cotton fields adjacent to pastures.

Management and decision making for stink bugs are to examine 6 row feet of cotton in several locations in the field. When there is an average of one or more stink bugs per 6 feet of row, feeding can cause excessive loss of squares and small bolls and may stain lint. Additionally, at least 50 small bolls (the diameter of a quarter) should be examined. If 20% of the small bolls have evidence of internal feeding (callous growth on internal boll wall and/or stained lint) and stink bugs are present then treatment should be considered. Stink bugs often are clumped near field margins.

COTTON 101- The Blooms

The cotton plant develops in an orderly, predictable pattern. If you are familiar with the fruiting stages, their sequence, and the time required for each stage, you can tell if your crop is on schedule. For example, you should spot the first white bloom 60-80 days from planting. That will be from 20-27 days (23 days average) after the square or bud develops. It will take about 3 days between the opening of a flower on one fruiting branch and the opening of the bloom in the same position of the bloom in the same position on the next higher fruiting branch. That's known as vertical flowering. About 6 days pass between the appearance of two consecutive blooms on the same branch (horizontal flowering). The cotton bloom is a perfect flower. It has both male parts (pollen-producing stamens, each with a double-lobed anther) and female parts (stigma, style, and ovary) in the same flower. The ovary has 4 to 5 carpels or locks. Each lock contains 8 to 12 ovules that may develop into seed. Flowers open during the morning, and pollination usually occurs within a few hours. Pollen grains from the anther drop to the sticky surface of the stigma. Fertilization- the union of a male reproductive cell from a single pollen grain and a female cell in the ovule- normally takes place within 24 to 30 hours after pollination. The fertilized ovule develops into a seed. Some of the ovules may not develop fully or are aborted. If a majority of the seed abort, the boll will fall off the plant within 7 to 10 days after flowering. Cotton flowers usually are self-pollinated. However, bees or other insects may increase the frequency of cross-pollination. Temperatures above 100°F and moisture- rain or high humidity- reduce pollination. A bloom will not pollinate after the first day. The white petals of the flower turn pink after 24 hours and shed within a week as the fertilized ovules of the ovary grow into a boll. The effective bloom period occurs from early July to mid-August. Stress during this period will cause the largest loss of yields. Research shows that in the High Plains, about 85% of the total bolls are set during the first three weeks of blooming, 10% during the fourth week, and less than 5% from the fifth through the seventh weeks.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

TURNROW MEETINGS..... Wall Coop at 9:00 am on August 5th. Ballinger Courthouse, Third Floor, Large Room at 8:30 am on August 6th. See you there.

2014 BIG COUNTRY WHEAT CONFERENCE coming Thursday, August 14 beginning at 8:30a.m. at the Taylor County Expo Center, Big Country Hall. 3 CEU's 1 IPM, 1 General, 1 L&R. Event is free of charge if you register by August 12th or \$20 at the door. FMI or to register, please call 325-672-6048. For agenda go to: <http://today.agrilife.org/2014/07/09/big-country-wheat-conference-set-aug-14-in-abilene/>

A MULTI-COUNTY FARM BILL MEETING is set for Wednesday September 24th. It will be held from 8:30-12:00 noon at the Tom Green County 4-H Building. This is a very necessary meeting. Many changes are coming and almost everything you do will pertain to internet and computers. A decision aid has been built by Dr. Joe Outlaw and his group to assist producers in making management decisions on their individual farms. Here is the website you can go to now and get started to setting up your account and learning about the new farm program.

<https://www.afpc.tamu.edu/models/decisionaid.php>

TOTAL HEAT UNIT (HU) ACCUMULATIONS

Planting Date	Total HU Accumulation as of July 29, 2014	Total HU Accumulation as of July 29, 2013
May 15, 2014	1,557	1,580
June 1, 2014	1,289	1,303
June 15, 2014	1,029	1,013

