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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>

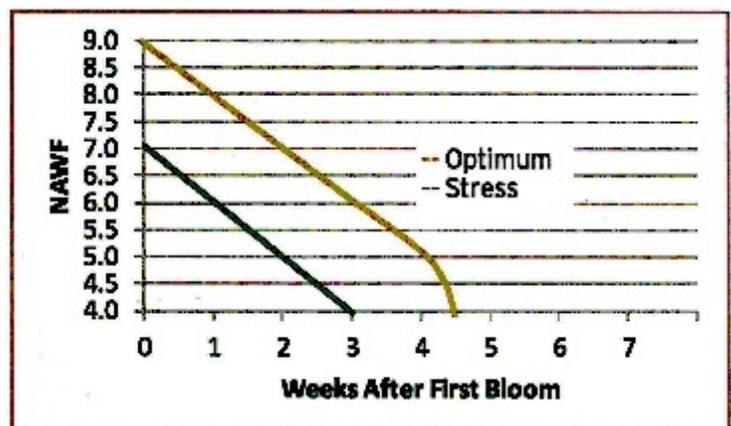
GENERAL SITUATION

Crops continue to progress rapidly with the hot open weather this week. Sugarcane aphids continue to cause significant damage to sorghum and haygrazer throughout the Concho Valley. Cotton aphids have increased in many cotton fields and decreased in other fields. Don't base treatment decisions on amount of honeydew present on leaves.

Fall armyworms were found in relatively high numbers in sorghum fields last week. Many were about 1/4-inch long indicating a new generation is upon us. This pest will likely continue to cause economic damage in sorghum, haygrazer, coastal and small grains until frost. I would encourage delayed planting of small grains until after October 1. Fall armyworms can also cause damage to cotton as well. Therefore, monitor your cotton until bolls are mature.

COTTON

At this point in the season, growth management options are limited. Plant Growth Regulators will no longer be as effective or economical. However, where irrigation is utilized, water stress can be used late in the season to manage regrowth and hasten maturity. Due to a fortunate difference in sensitivity to water stress between vegetative growth and boll development, periods of substantial water stress late in the season can be tolerated with little or no effect on yields. This is especially true for vigorous more indeterminate varieties. Reducing irrigation frequency late in the season will also lower the humidity in the lower plant canopy thus reducing boll rot.



Cotton aphid infestations continue to increase primarily in those fields where cotton is still actively growing. Cotton fields that have bloomed out the top are still susceptible and aphids are present but generally infestations are low. Cotton aphid infestations ranged from an average of 0-69 aphids per leaf this week in the monitor fields. Don't base treatments on honeydew. Pick 100 leaves from the upper, mid and lower parts of the plant and count the number of aphids present. If the average is greater than 50 aphids per leaf, an insecticide application may be justified.



The Fall Armyworm (FAW) can also damage **cotton bolls**. The photos seen here were taken in 2005 (by Dr. Ed Bynum, Extension Entomologist in Amarillo) from a Bollgard field. He indicated small bolls between 1 to 10 days old will be aborted when fed on by larvae. Bolls 12 days old and older will remain on the plant but the damaged locks will result in reduced yield. In cotton, treatments should be based on small larvae < 1/4-inch or > 1/2-inch.



The following tables are the cotton thresholds for FAW and CEW/tobacco budworms. The reason for treating smaller sized larvae in cotton compared to larger sized larvae in grain sorghum is that insecticide efficacy is less in cotton because of poorer spray coverage in the cotton canopy compared to the grain sorghum head. The poor coverage reduces the exposure to insecticides that are needed to control larger size worms. This also becomes important for controlling FAW compared to CEW (aka bollworm). In grain sorghum heads, pyrethroid applications usually provide good control of both CEW and FAW larvae. But, in cotton, pyrethroids are more effective against CEW than FAW.



Bolls at different ages in days

Fall Armyworm Action Threshold		
Cotton stage	Terminal and fruit inspection	Whole plant inspection
Prior to first bloom	30% damaged squares	10,000-20,000 small larvae per acre
After first bloom	15-25 small larvae per 100 plant terminals and 5-15% damaged squares or bolls*	

*If the number of fall armyworms is high, it may not be appropriate to wait for 5-15% damaged squares or bolls.

Bollworm and Tobacco Budworm Action Threshold Based on a Plant Population of 40,000 to 60,000 Plants per Acre			
Cotton stage	Worm size	Cotton Type	
		Non-Bt	Bt
Before bloom	All	≥ 30% damaged squares and worms are present	
After boll formation	≤ 1/4-inch	10,000 worms/acre	Do not treat
	> 1/4-inch	5,000 worms/acre	5,000 worms/acre with 5-15% damaged fruit

Fields that have accumulated 350 DD60s beyond 5 NAWF are no longer susceptible to first or second instar bollworm/tobacco budworm larvae.

If two or more key predators are found for each small worm, control measures may not be needed or a microbial insecticide may be considered.

TOTAL HEAT UNIT (HU) ACCUMULATIONS

Planting Date	Total HU Accumulation as of September 02, 2014	Total HU Accumulation as of September 02, 2013
May 15, 2014	2,346.0	2,425.0
June 1, 2014	2,079.0	2,148.0
June 15, 2014	1,819.0	1,858.0

GRAIN SORGHUM



Figure 1. Sorghum kernels in various stages of maturity harvested from the same panicle from the most mature (1) to the least mature (5). The black layer is first visible in the second stage and becomes more distinguishable as the seed loses moisture. Picture from L-5435, 3/03, Harvest Aids in Sorghum, Charles Stichler & Steve Livingston.

How do you know when grain is mature??? The seed is physiologically mature when a black layer appears immediately above the point of kernel attachment in the floret near the kernel base. The small area at the base of the kernel (glume) will turn black. When this turns black, it's mature. Once the black layer occurs, a harvest-aid can be applied to provide easier threshing and make fields uniform for harvest. Glyphosate is labeled for application in grain sorghum. Paraquat is NOT labeled for use in sorghum.

For best results, good spray coverage is needed. Eight to ten gallons per acre of solution by ground or 3 to 5 gallons per acre by air. There is a 7 day waiting interval between application and harvest. The crop should be ready 7 to 10 days after application.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

TURNROW MEETINGS..... Wall Coop at 9:00 am on September 09. See you there. **There will be no further turnrow meetings in Ballinger.**

PROGRAM DEADLINES FOR PRODUCERS.....

The Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) will be available to producers that sign-up for the new Price Loss Coverage (PLC). SCO **will not** be available for producers that sign up for the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC). The issue is that **wheat producers** will not have had the time to evaluate their program choices by the wheat crop insurance deadline of **September 30**. It is recommended that all **wheat producers** inform their crop insurance agents that they want SCO on their wheat for 2015. If at program sign-up a producer decides to sign a particular farm up into ARC, the producers will be able to opt back out of the SCO (with RMA's blessing). This opt out is a one-time offer for this year only. If a producer does not declare his intention of purchasing SCO by September 30th, and he does sign up with PLC, he will not be able to buy an SCO policy until the 2016 wheat crop. Crop Insurance agents are aware of this provision and should be communicating this to their customers.

The Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) is the "partial direct payment" that will be paid to producers this year since the STAX program from the 2014 Farm Bill will not be implemented until 2015. Sign-up for that payment began August 11th and runs until **October 7th**. This is **not automatic** for producers. The DCP program has expired, so if you want this transition payment, you need to go sign up for it.

FIVE MULTI-COUNTY FARM BILL MEETINGS ARE set for beginning September 23 - October 8. All meetings will be held from 8:30 am -12:00 noon. Locations are:

September 23, Garden City, Glasscock County AgriLife Extension meeting room
 September 24, San Angelo, Tom Green County 4-H Center

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>
COTTON TOURS!!

Runnels County Turnrow Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 30 at 8:30 a.m. on the Paul Minzenmayer Farm. The Minzenmayer Farm is located on the south side of U.S. Highway 67 near Halfmann’s Garage, southwest of Ballinger. The turnrow meeting will consist of talks on cotton varieties along with wheat varieties to consider planting during the upcoming fall small-grain season. Hopefully a harvest-aid trial will be available to view and discuss treatments. CEU’s will be available for those who attend the entire meeting. A noon meal will be provided at the St. Mary’s Catholic Church Hall. For more information on the tour, call the Extension office in Runnels County at 365-2219 or call Rick Minzenmayer at 365-5212.

The Tom Green County Cotton Field Tour will be held on Thursday, October 02, 2014 and begins at 9 a.m. at the John and Doug Wilde farm just north of the intersection of Loop 306 and FM 765, east of San Angelo. The tour includes an irrigated cotton variety test, a harvest-aid trial and a look at the Monsanto “XtendFlex technology” in Americot/NexGen cotton varieties. The tour will conclude with a Boll Weevil Eradication Update and a complimentary meal at St. Ambrose Church BBQ Area. Three continuing education units (1 General and 2 IPM) will be given to those attending the entire tour. For more information on the tour or to RSVP by September 26, please call the Extension office in Tom Green County at 325-659-6523 or call Rick Minzenmayer at 325-365-5212.

