



Integrated Pest Management
Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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Turn Row Meetings:

Tuesday June 11 at 9 am

Wall Coop Gin

Tuesday June 25 at 9 am

Wall Coop Gin

GENERAL SITUATION

The past few days we have seen some rain, with more rain chances in the forecast over the next couple of days. Depending on where your fields are, some of the cotton is having a slow start due to the weather. Slow developing cotton is more susceptible to thrips damage, especially if these fields are near small grains. Wheat harvest has commenced, with yield averages ranging from 40-60 bushels/acre.

Just a heads up for the pecan growers, there were reports of the walnut caterpillar in San Saba county.

COTTON

Cotton planting has kicked off, but the wet weather has caused a slower start. If you planted before these rains and received excess rainfall in your fields, your soils may be waterlogged which can result in a poor stand establishment. In waterlogged soils, the water replaces the air in the soil and the plant roots become deprived of oxygen. This results in a reduction of the shoot and root growth and therefore overall plant growth will be slowed down. The reduction in growth and the shallow depths of the roots makes the plants more susceptible to drought stress later on in the season.

Our cotton is currently susceptible to thrips damage. Thrips damage is most often seen during cool, wet periods where the seedling cotton plants are growing slowly. Thrips are an early season pest that are slender, straw-colored insects about 1/15" long with piercing-sucking mouthparts. The adults are winged and capable of traveling long distances from the wind. They attack the leaves, leaf buds, and very small squares that causes a silvering of the lower leaf surface, deformed or blackened leaves, and loss of the plant terminal. Infestations at the cotyledon and one-leaf stage often cause more yield reduction than later infestations. The economic threshold for thrips is 1 thrips per true-leaf until 5 true leaves (Table 1). Insecticide seed treatments usually provide thrips control until the two to three true-leaf stage. In-furrow insecticides such as imidacloprid and acephate can be applied and provide thrips control until about the second true-leaf stage. Under adverse growing conditions, foliar insecticides may still be needed to control thrips.



Figure 1.
Adult Thrips (top)
Immature Thrips (bottom)



Figure 2. Thrips damage to cotton plants

Table 1. Thrips Action Threshold

Cotton Stage	Action Threshold
Emergence to	
1 true leaf	1 thrips per plant
2 true leaves	2 thrips per plant
3 true leaves	3 thrips per plant
4 true leaves	4 thrips per plant
5-7 leaves or squaring initiation	Treatment is rarely justified.

SORGHUM

Regarding sugarcane aphids, make sure you are scouting your fields for these little guys. Infestations on preboot sorghum can cause significant grain loss and poor head emergence. Infestations during flowering can cause great yield reductions. Immature aphids develop into mature adults in 5 days and have a life cycle of approximately four weeks. Under favorable conditions, Sugarcane aphid infestations can increase from a few to well beyond damaging populations in only 10 days; **which is why it is very important to monitor fields at least two times a week.**



Figure 3. Sugarcane aphid



Figure 4. Winged and wingless sugarcane aphids

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