



Integrated Pest Management
Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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Turn Row Meetings:
Tuesday July 2 at 8:30 AM
Wall Coop Gin
Tuesday July 9 at 8:30 AM
Wall Coop Gin

GENERAL SITUATION

Wheat harvest is wrapping up and cotton planting has finished. Cotton ranges anywhere from just planted/emerged to about mid-squaring. The younger cotton is still susceptible to thrips, but as fields are approaching squaring, cotton fleahoppers are becoming an issue. Fleahoppers have been reported in multiple fields, with insecticide applications becoming necessary. Jumbo grasshoppers are still an issue as well. Regarding sorghum, there have been several reports of sugarcane aphids within the past week. Some of these populations were at the economic threshold, with spraying becoming necessary.

Regarding turnrow meetings, please note that they will be every Tuesday. Also, they will start at 8:30 AM instead of 9 AM.

COTTON

The younger cotton is still susceptible to thrips damage. Thrips are a concern until the plant starts squaring. There have been fields where seed treatments did not hold up and thus resulted in foliar insecticide applications. Some insecticides labeled for thrips include: Acephate, Dimethoate, and Bidrin (dicofthos). Remember, the economic threshold for thrips is 1 thrips per true-leaf until 5 true-leaves or when the cotton starts squaring.

As cotton fields start squaring, cotton fleahoppers (CFH) are becoming a concern. Cotton is most susceptible to CFH during the first three weeks of squaring. CFH are about 1/8" long with piercing-sucking mouthparts (Figure 1). The adults and nymphs suck sap from the plant, especially small squares. The pinhead squares and smaller are the most susceptible to CFH damage. Fleahoppers damage cause the squares to turn brown and die, resulting in a "blasted" square that falls from the plant, leaving a scar on the fruiting branch (Figure 2). Treat for CFH when fields have 25-30 CFH per 100 terminals and square-set is less than those in Table 1. Some insecticides labeled for CFH include: Centric (thiamethoxam), Acephate, and Imidacloprid.



Figure 1. Cotton Fleahopper adult



Figure 2. Blasted square

Table 1. Cotton Fleahopper Threshold

<i>Fleahoppers</i>	<i>Cotton growth stage</i>	
<i>25-30 per 100 terminals with:</i>	<i>Week of squaring</i>	<i>Square set</i>
	<i>1st week</i>	<i>< 90%</i>
	<i>2nd week</i>	<i>< 85%</i>
	<i>3rd week</i>	<i>< 75%</i>

SORGHUM

There have been several more reports of sugarcane aphids within the past week in the area. A couple of these were at the threshold, with spraying becoming necessary. The economic threshold depends on the growth stage (Table 2). Chemicals labeled for SCA include: Sivanto Prime and Transform. Make sure you are monitoring your fields for sugarcane aphids since their populations can increase rapidly, especially in hot and dry weather. The sugarcane aphids primarily feed on the underside of sorghum leaves, so inspecting the underside of leaves from the upper and lower canopy is necessary. While honeydew is a great indicator of the presence of SCA, do not solely rely on honeydew to detect infestations.

As sorghum approaches flowering and grain development, keep your eye out for stink bugs as well as headworms. These insect pests feed on the developing grain in the head. The best method to scout for headworms and stink bugs is the beat-bucket method. Shake the heads vigorously in a bucket and count the insects. Make sure you sample at least 30 heads. (In fields larger than 40 acres, sample at least one head per acre). The threshold for stink bugs and headworms depends on cost of control, expected crop value, and sorghum heads per acre. Go [here](#) for an economic threshold calculator. Treatment thresholds also vary depending on the species of stink bugs. Conchuelas have a threshold of 4 or more per grain head, while Rice stink bugs use the calculator. Regarding Rice stink bugs, I personally use the threshold of ~1 stinkbug per grain head, depending on the number of heads.

I have seen some small headworms, but have seen numerous beneficials out as well. I have seen high populations of stinkbugs (mostly Conchuela and Rice), with multiple fields being sprayed. Insecticides labeled for stinkbugs include numerous pyrethroids (Mustang Maxx, Baythroid XL, etc), so if you are spraying these watch out for SCA populations to increase since these kill many beneficial insects.

Table 2. Sugarcane Aphid Threshold

Growth Stage	Threshold
Preboot	20% plants with aphids present (50 aphids or more)
Boot	50 aphids per leaf on 20% of plants
Flowering -Milk	50 aphids per leaf on 30% of plants
Soft dough	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, 30% of plants
Dough	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, 30% of plants
Black Layer	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, observe preharvest



Figure 4. SCA populations in Concho Valley

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