



Integrated Pest Management
 Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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Turn Row Meetings:
Tuesday July 16 at 8:30 AM
 Wall Coop Gin
Tuesday July 23 at 8:30 AM
 Wall Coop Gin

GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton ranges anywhere from a few true-leaves to about first bloom. As cotton fields are squaring, they are susceptible to cotton fleahoppers. Keep monitoring your fields for fleahoppers until first bloom. Aphids are starting to show up more in cotton. Also, starting to find bollworm eggs in some early planted cotton. Regarding sorghum, sugarcane aphid populations continue to build, and stinkbugs continue to be an issue in milo fields until hard-dough stage.

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

COTTON

As cotton fields are squaring, monitor your fields weekly for cotton fleahoppers (CFH). The best method to scout for CFH is by terminal inspection. Examine the main stem terminal buds of 25 plants of at least 4 sites across the field. If fields are larger than 80 acres, increase the amount of locations in the field. When approaching a plant, watch for adults that might fly from it. CFH are considered “flighty” and can move quickly. If you grasp the plant around the middle of the main stem, it prevents the nymphs from moving from the terminal towards the lower canopy.

Cotton is most susceptible to CFH during the first three weeks of squaring. The pinhead squares and smaller are the most susceptible to CFH damage. Fleahoppers damage cause the squares to turn brown and die, that results in a “blasted” square that falls from the plant (Figure 1). Treat for CFH when fields have 25-30 CFH per 100 terminals and square-set is less than those in Table 1. To determine % square set use the following equation: % square set = (# of 1st position squares present/the total number of 1st position fruiting positions) × 100. Some insecticides labeled for CFH include: Centric (thiamethoxam), Imidacloprid, and Acephate.



Figure 1. Blasted square

Table 1. CFH Threshold

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

SORGHUM

Sugarcane aphid populations continue to build as the weather remains hot and dry. In the last week, I have seen some later planted milo fields that have SCA populations near the economic threshold. The economic threshold for SCA depends on the growth stage of your sorghum (Table 2). While sugarcane aphid infestations that occur after grain fill may have less impact on yield, the honeydew produced can hinder harvest.

Headworm pressure remains low in milo, and as fields hit the hard-dough stage they are not a concern. Monitor for headworms from when your field finishes flowering until the hard-dough stage.

Stink bugs remain a concern for milo fields from flowering until the hard-dough stage. I have mostly seen Concheula and Rice stink bugs (Figure 2 and 3). As I have mentioned before, the best method to scout for them is the beat-bucket method. The economic threshold for stink bugs depends on the type that you have. The threshold for Rice stink bugs depends on cost of control, expected crop value, and sorghum heads per acre. Go [here](#) for an economic threshold calculator. The threshold for Conchuela stink bugs is an average of 4 or more per grain head. Insecticides labeled for stinkbugs include pyrethroids, so if using these watch out for SCA populations to increase since pyrethroids knock out your beneficials.



Figure 2. Conchuela stinkbug



Figure 3. Rice stinkbug

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

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