

# Pest Management News Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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Runnels-Tom Green Counties  
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## GENERAL SITUATION

Howdy! While many of you have had the opportunity to meet me, for those who haven't— I'm Haley Kennedy and I am the IPM Agent for Runnels and Tom Green Counties since February. I look forward to working with y'all!

I think it's safe to say that around the Concho Valley the soils are mostly saturated. Once the fields dry up, cotton planting will ramp up along with wheat harvest. Most of the wheat is ready, but some drier/warmer days would help finish some of it out.

## COTTON

Oh I am getting antsy to put some cotton in the ground! Cotton planting is finally starting to kick off, just depending on how wet your fields are. I know the rainfall in the past week or so varied, with some fields seeing over 4 inches of rain. We will have some good soil moisture to plant into this year. Even though May has brought some cooler temperatures, the soil temperatures are warm enough to plant into. The lowest averages I have seen lately have been in the upper 60s. Cotton requires a soil temperature of at least 60°F, with a more optimum soil temperature of 65°F.

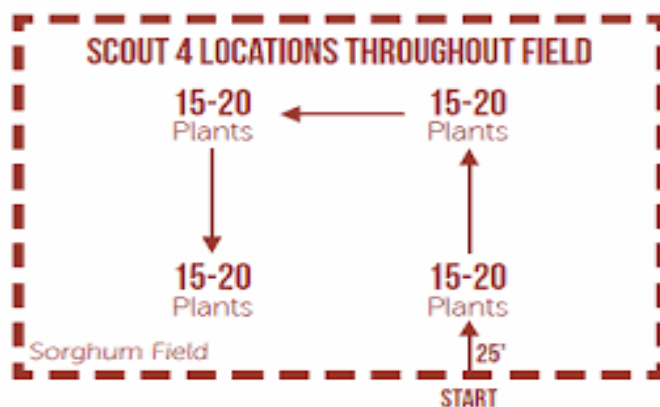
## SORGHUM/CORN

The corn and sorghum in the area look good. Some of the sorghum had a slow start due to the cooler temperatures in April and May as well as excess soil moisture. The biggest problem I have seen so far is from the excess soil moisture causing a poor stand establishment along with the yellowing of the leaves. Too much soil moisture can lead to a reduction in root growth, a reduction in nutrient uptake, and an increased risk of pathogens/diseases.

Just a heads up on Sugarcane aphids.. The closest report of SCA was found in Hill County last week, on sorghum and johnsongrass (it was below the economic threshold). While there hasn't been any seen in the Concho Valley, it is important to keep your eye out for these little guys. On the next page are a few monitoring guidelines for the future.

## Sugarcane Aphid Monitoring Guidelines

1. Walk 25 feet into the field and visually inspect **at least** 50 feet of row.
2. Look for the presence of honeydew.
  - a. If honeydew is found, look for sugarcane aphids on the underside of the above leaf.
3. Inspect the underside of 15-20 leaves from the lower canopy to the uppermost leaf.
4. Sample each side of the field.
5. Sample areas near fields that have Johnsongrass.
6. Calculate the percentage of plants infested with 50 or more aphids:  
 (Number of plants with 50 or more aphids ÷ Total number of plants inspected) x 100



**Table 1.** 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 infested
Dough	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, 30% of plants infested
Black Layer	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, observe preharvest intervals

*Modified from West Texas Grain Sorghum Action Threshold*

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