



Integrated Pest Management
Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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Turn Row Meetings:
Tuesday June 25 at 9 am
Wall Coop Gin

GENERAL SITUATION

Wheat harvest and cotton planting are still going on. Cotton ranges anywhere from still in the bag to about pinhead square. Most of the cotton is still susceptible to thrips, while some of the earlier planted cotton is susceptible to cotton fleahoppers. Thrips have been reported in fields at and above the threshold, with insecticide applications becoming necessary. Jumbo grasshoppers are in the area in high populations, so make sure you are checking your field margins and adjacent pastures before they migrate into your cotton. Just treating your field margins for grasshoppers is often very effective. Regarding sorghum, there were a couple of reports of sugarcane aphids last week. However, these populations were well below economic threshold, with numerous beneficials nearby.

COTTON

Most of our cotton is still susceptible to thrips damage. Thrips populations in numerous fields have been at threshold and above (averaging 1-2 thrips per true-leaf), with foliar insecticide applications necessary. Some insecticides labeled for thrips include: Acephate, Dimethoate, and Bidrin (dicotophos). Remember, the economic threshold for thrips is 1 thrips per true-leaf until 5 true-leaves or when the cotton starts squaring (Table 1).

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.



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



Figure 2. Thrips damage to cotton plants

There have also been several concerns about jumbo grasshoppers in the area. Jumbos can quickly destroy a stand, especially during large outbreaks. Checking your field edges and adjacent pastures is very important since controlling the populations early while the grasshoppers are still in the crop border is often very effective. Just treating the perimeter of your field can often stop the damage. Some insecticides labeled for grasshoppers include: Prevathon (chlorantraniliprole), Mustang (zeta-cypermethrin), and Bidrin (dicotophos). Prevathon has a great residual and is less harmful on your beneficial insects.

SORGHUM

There have been a couple reports of sugarcane aphids last week in the area. They were in low populations, well below the economic threshold. In the field that I found SCA, there were numerous lady beetles nearby that seemed to be controlling the sugarcane aphids. Make sure you are monitoring your fields for sugarcane aphids since their populations can increase rapidly. 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.

As sorghum approaches flowering and grain development, be mindful of stinkbugs as well as headworms. These insect pests feed on the developing grain in the head.



Figure 3. Sugarcane aphid



Figure 4. Winged and wingless sugarcane aphids

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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