

# Pest Management News Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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Integrated Pest Management  
Runnels-Tom Green Counties  
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**Turn Row Meetings:**  
**Tuesday Aug. 20 at 8:30 AM**  
**Wall Coop**  
**Thursday Aug. 22 at 8:30 AM**  
**Western Chemical**

## GENERAL SITUATION

Milo harvest is in full swing--the yields seem to be higher than average. Cotton ranges anywhere from about first bloom to cut out. With these hot temperatures and lack of rain, squares and small bolls are starting to drop. We desperately need a rain to retain the bolls on the plant. I am starting to see spider mites show up in fields. If your cotton field is near corn, be extra mindful of these guys. Aphid populations are crashing in some fields, while in others they remain present. Stink bug pressure remains low, with some egg lay noticed. I have also not found any bollworms, but I am continuing to scout for them. You need to be scouting two-gene cotton, but that doesn't mean to disregard your Vip cotton.

To sum it up, August has been hot and dry, and we could really use a rain.

Attached are the results from the Tom Green County Dryland Wheat Variety Strip Trial. Once again, thanks to everybody who helped make it happen!

## COTTON

Our cotton crop definitely needs a rain in order to retain the bolls on the plant, but the forecast isn't too promising for us right now. In dryland and irrigated fields, I am noticing small bolls and squares dropping.

With this hot and dry weather, it's a perfect environment for spider mite infestations. I'm starting to see them show up in fields--I have been finding them in hot spots, mostly near dusty field margins (Figure 1 and 2). Remember that these guys are moving from corn into the nearby cotton. Even though I am seeing spider mites in fields, I have not seen infestations that justified spraying.

Aphids are still present in several fields in the area however I have noticed populations crashing in other fields. With that being said, I have not seen any aphid populations that were at the economic threshold in the past few weeks. As I have said before, small infestations of aphids can attract beneficial insects and help build these beneficial populations further.



Figure 1. Spider mites on back of leaf



Figure 2. Spider mites

Stinkbug pressure remains low, with some egg lay noticed in the past few days. Stinkbugs tend to aggregate and they are commonly found along field margins. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts and feed on developing seeds in the boll. They feed on any size boll, but they prefer medium sized bolls. When feeding on young bolls (10 days or less), it usually causes the bolls to shed. External signs of stink bug feeding results in dark spots about 1/16” in diameter (Figure 3). However, the external damage does not always correlate to internal damage—growths/warts and stained lint (Figure 4). The internal damage is what causes poor color grades and reduced fiber quality. Therefore in order to determine stinkbug damage, you cannot solely go off external damage. Remove about 10-20 bolls that are about 1” in diameter (size of a quarter), from different parts of the field. Break open the bolls and look for warts on the boll walls and stained lint. The threshold used for stinkbugs is 20% of bolls that have internal warts and/or stained lint with stinkbugs present.

In the past two weeks, I have noticed less bollworm egg lay. With these hot temperatures, it does leads to low survivorship of the eggs. However I am still continuing to look for egg lay, along with bollworms. I haven’t personally seen any bollworms in cotton yet. Regardless, we need to be scouting fields for bollworms, especially the two-gene cotton. Regarding scouting for bollworms, an entire plant inspection is necessary. This includes squares, white blooms, pink blooms, bloom tags, and bolls.



*Figure 3. External damage from stinkbugs*



*Figure 4. Boll wall warts*

## 2019 Tom Green County Dryland Wheat-Variety Strip Trial

### Cooperator: Gene Gully & Sons

**Planting Date:** November 14, 2018  
**Soil Moisture:** Very Good  
**Soil Temp:**  
**Seeding Rate:** 58 lbs/acre  
**Fertility:** 32-0-0 @114 lbs/acre liquid, applied ground broadcast at planting  
 11-52-0 @ 125 lbs/acre dry, applied at planting  
**Herbicide:** .12 ounces Ally on 2-15-19  
**Insecticides:**  
**GPS Coordinates:** 31°25'42"N 100°07'26" W

Wheat Variety	Certified Seed Only Variety	Plant Height <sup>2</sup>	Plot Weight	% Moisture	Bushel Weight	Yield Adjusted to 13% Moisture	Protein
TAM 204 <sup>3</sup>	No	23	2260	12.3	58.3	26.7	10.5
SY Razor <sup>3</sup>	No	27	1835	11.7	58.4	21.9	11.7
Gallagher	No	26	2920	11.9	59.3	34.7	12.1
OGI Smiths Gold	No	23	2760	11.9	58.8	32.8	11.6
LCS Chrome	No	23	2540	11.4	56	30.4	11.5
SY Flint	No	25	2890	11.1	53.4	34.7	11.5
WB 4418 <sup>4</sup>	Yes	23	----	10.9	56.6	----	12.4
WB 4515	No	23	2545	11.6	59.5	30.4	11.6
WB 4699	Yes	22	3040	11.3	58.4	36.4	12.0
WB 4792	Yes	26	3015	11.7	58.1	35.9	11.5
TAM 114*	No	25	3280	12	59.4	38.9	10.3
CP 78-69	Yes	22	3355	11.4	58.4	40.1	10.4
DG Long Branch	No	24	3000	11.2	57.5	35.9	10.7

\*TAM 114 borders plot on North and South. A margin of 3.4 bushels was noted across the field within the same variety.

<sup>2</sup> Plant height measured in inches

<sup>3</sup> Beardless Varieties

<sup>4</sup> Final plot weight was not obtained

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