

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Runnels-Tom Green Counties



Integrated Pest Management

Runnels-Tom Green Counties
Haley Kennedy EA-IPM
608 Sealy Ave Suite A
Ballinger, TX 76821
325-365-2219 (o)
832-331-9877 (m)

Turnrow Meetings:

No Turnrow Meetings next week (7/13-7/17)

If you would like to be added to the newsletter email list please email:

haley.kennedy@ag.tamu.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cotton ranges anywhere from planted to about first bloom. I have seen a decent amount of wind damage to the younger cotton in the past week or so. As fields start squaring, cotton fleahoppers will become an issue. Overall fleahopper pressure has been fairly light, but populations are growing. I have seen fleahoppers in numerous fields, but these situations were all below the economic threshold. I have also started to see some bollworm eggs in a few fields, but given the current weather conditions and beneficial insect populations, I do not expect to see this as an issue in these fields. I am continuing to look for bollworm egg lay in area fields. Regarding sorghum, there are a couple more cases of sugarcane aphids (SCA) popping up in northern Runnels county, but these were all well below threshold.

There will be no turnrow meetings next week (7/13-7/17)

COTTON

As I mentioned earlier, fleahopper pressure is overall fairly light. As cotton fields starts squaring, cotton fleahoppers (CFH) are an insect pest to watch out for. Cotton is most susceptible to CFH during the first three weeks of squaring. 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. Treat for CFH when fields have 25-30 CFH per 100 terminals and square-set is less than those in Table 1.

Table 1. CFH Threshold

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

Aphids are present in a few fields in the area but all below threshold. Aphids are usually found on the underside of leaves, on stems, or in the terminals. Small number of aphids can attract beneficial insects and help build these beneficial populations further. However since aphids can reproduce quickly, a light infestation can easily turn into a damaging one (especially if there is a low population of beneficials present).

Table 2. Aphid Threshold in Cotton

Cotton Stage	Action Threshold
Prior to first cracked boll	40-70 aphids per leaf*
After first cracked boll	10 aphids per leaf**
*Higher the yield potential (>1,000 lbs lint/acre), lower the threshold **Where rainfall is not likely to wash honeydew from lint	

SORGHUM

As I mentioned earlier, there have been a few more reports of sugarcane aphids that were below the economic threshold (Table 3). 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. Johnsongrass is an alternative host for SCA, so if there is some in or near your field, this is a perfect situation for the SCA to move into your sorghum.

Headworm pressure remains low, 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. Stinkbug pressure also remains low in the area. Stinkbugs are a concern for milo fields from flowering until the hard-dough stage. Overall, I haven't seen any fields with headworms or stinkbugs to justify an insecticide application.

Table 3. 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

Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understand that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied.