

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Runnels-Tom Green Counties



Integrated Pest Management

Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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Turnrow Meetings:

Thursday, June 25
Western Chemical
8:30 AM

Tuesday, June 30
Wall Coop Gin 8:30 AM

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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Cotton ranges anywhere from planted to match-head square. As fields start squaring, cotton fleahoppers will become an issue. I have seen fleahoppers in a couple of fields, but these situations were all below the economic threshold. Regarding sorghum, I found Sugarcane aphids (SCA) in multiple fields (on 6/22), however they were not at the economic threshold.

COTTON

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. CFH are about 1/8" long with piercing-sucking mouthparts (Figure 1). The adults and nymphs suck sap from the plant, preferring terminal bud clusters including small squares. The pinhead squares and smaller are the most susceptible to CFH damage. Fleahoppers damage cause the squares to turn brown and die, resulting in a "blasted" square that falls from the plant, leaving a scar on the fruiting branch (Figure 2). Treat for CFH when fields have 25-30 CFH per 100 terminals and square-set is less than those in Table 1.



Figure 1. Adult CFH



Figure 2. Blasted square

Table 1. CFH Threshold

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

SORGHUM

As I mentioned earlier, there have been a few reports of sugarcane aphids that were below the economic threshold (Table 2). 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

Regarding other insect pests such as stinkbugs or headworms, I haven't seen much activity from either of these. There were a handful of fields that had a few rice stinkbugs. I have seen some damage from caterpillars feeding inside the whorl, but not much activity after the head emerges.

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

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