



Integrated Pest Management

Runnels-Tom Green Counties  
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### Turnrow Meetings:

**Wall Coop Gin**  
**Tuesday, August 11**  
**8:30 AM**

**Western Chemical**  
**Thursday, August 6**  
**8:30 AM**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Cotton ranges anywhere from squaring to about cutout. Overall, pest pressure has been fairly light. I have seen some aphids in a few fields, but the beneficials are taking care of them. I haven't seen much stink bug pressure, but if there are any populations in milo they will be moving into the nearby cotton.

## COTTON

Our cotton crop is in need of a rain, but the forecast isn't looking too promising right now. Some of the dryland fields still have potential while there are fields that are already blooming at the top, especially the ones that didn't catch any timely rains.

With this hot and dry weather— it is a perfect environment for spider mite infestations. Overall the pressure has been scattered and light. They are commonly found in hot spots, mostly near dusty field margins or corn fields.

I have not really seen much stinkbug activity or damage, but I expect to see more stinkbugs in cotton fields as milo gets harvested and they move into nearby cotton. The Conchuela stink bug is the predominant species in the area. 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 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" diameter (Figure 1). However the external damage does not always correlate with internal damage—growth/warts and stained lint (Figure 2). The internal damage is what causes poor color grades and reduces fiber quality. Therefore in order to determine stink bug damage, you cannot solely go off external damage. Remove about 10-20 bolls that are 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 is 20% of bolls that have internal warts and/or stained lint with stink bugs present.



**Figure 1.** External damage from stinkbugs



**Figure 2.** Internal damage from stinkbugs

Overall I haven't seen much bollworm egg lay in fields. With these hot temperatures, it does lead to low survivorship of the eggs. Plus with the number of beneficial insects that I have seen, they are also keeping those egg numbers low.