

June 14, 2011



T-Y IPM News

Terry - Yoakum Pest Management Association

Volume 12, Issue 2



Current Situation: Continued hot, dry and windy weather has made getting an acceptable stand difficult. Major wind events on May 24 and June 12 did considerable damage to young seedlings (especially cotton without a cover crop), with numerous growers spot re-planting as needed. It has been common to take over two weeks to get cotton and peanuts up to a stand. This has primarily been due to the rapid drying conditions caused by the wind and high temperatures. Numerous cotton fields have had to be replanted and are just coming to a good stand. Irrigated cotton in the IPM scouting program ranges from 1.7 true leaves to 5.5 true leaves. Thrips have only been a minor pest in cotton thus far; none of the IPM scouting fields has required treatment. Dryland has been planted and awaits rainfall. Peanuts look good, all things considered; they have had the same struggles to emerge that cotton has. This week in the IPM scouting program, we are beginning to check nodulation of peanut roots. What we have seen thus far is that nodulation is only fair to poor; indicating one might expect to see a yield response with the addition of nitrogen fertilizer (see discussion later in newsletter). We have noted the first few blooms in peanut fields this week, however with our high temperatures and dry conditions; these will not likely form pods.

Evapotranspiration during the last seven days (June 5-12) has averaged 0.39 inches per day, with daily values ranging from 0.33 to 0.42 inches per day. If one is irrigating a crop with 0.75 inches every 5 days, you can see that the 0.75 inches is gone in just two to three days. In many cases the moisture profile is not as full as one might think and the crop is water stressed before it receives the next irrigation. This scenario sounds like we are already into August!

Root-knot Nematodes in Cotton: With the loss of Temik, it is important to check cotton roots for nematode infestations. The only definitive symptom of nematode damage is the galls induced on a plant's roots. Above ground symptoms of nematode damage include stunted or poor growth which may appear in clumps of a few plants within a row, due to the uneven distribution of nematodes across a field. Nematodes attack plant roots to feed; at these feeding sites a gall is produced. The nematode's feeding interferes with the cotton plant's ability to transport water and nutrients. To check for nematode infestations one should carefully dig plants, keeping roots intact. Examine the roots, both taproot and lateral roots, for the small galls produced by the nematode feeding. Where galling is heavy, one should consider a banded application of Vydate C-LV following all label directions. Even in fields planted with resistant cotton varieties, one may still notice damage when nematode populations are high, however the damage will likely be lower than if the field were planted to a more susceptible variety.

Agriculture and IPM on the radio:

Brownfield Town Talk, The Ag Update, Wednesdays, 9:30 AM on Radio AM1300

South Plains IPM Agents Show on Ag Talk with Ed-die Griffiths, 12:30 PM, Wednesdays on Radio AM950

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension is implied.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



Spider Mites in Cotton

Manda Anderson, Extension Agent IPM, reported finding fields infested with spider mites: A heavy spider mite infestation was observed in a field northwest of Seagraves and a very light population was observed in a field in far western Gaines County. Spider mites infest the undersides of leaves (see Figure 1, below left), where they remove the sap from the plant and cause the leaves to discolor (see Figure 2, below right). Spider mite infestations most often occur in spots and along the edge of the field. Therefore, you may only have to treat the infested areas of a field if a miticide application is justified. There is no action threshold for spider mites in pre-squaring cotton. Therefore, growers will have to evaluate it on a field by field basis. Be sure to note the extent of the damage and monitor how quickly the population is developing. Low humidity and dry conditions are optimal for spider mite reproduction.



Figure 1 (left). Spider mites infest the underside of this cotton leaf.



Figure 2 (right). Notice yellowing caused by spider mite feeding on the upper leaf surface.

Photos: Manda Anderson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Gaines County.

Peanut *Rhizobium* Nodulation: Most peanut fields in the area are near 5 to six weeks since planting, this is a good time to evaluate the effectiveness of one's *rhizobium* inoculant. Dr. Calvin Trostle, Extension Agronomist provided the follow comments in the Peanut Progress, June 12, 2008.

We are approaching the time in mid-June after planting in the Texas High Plains when peanut growers should check their taproot *Rhizobium* nodulation. Scouting 5 to 6 weeks after planting assesses early nodulation in advance of decisions about applying mid-season N, and if so, how much N. This is particularly important with N prices so high.

Use a shovel to dig plants from different rows and field locations. If nodulation is deemed poor, nothing can be done to increase nodulation in the current crop. In West Texas 20 to 25% of fields annually may be undernodulated, or worse, have only a few nodules per plant. Poor *Rhizobium* nodulation calls for supplemental N to achieve desired yield potential. This is why early scouting is recommended. We need to know which fields are not nodulating early in the cropping season.

Active nodules are pink to dark red inside. If nodules are white inside they are not yet active—check again in 7-10 days. Nodules no longer active are black, gray, and may be mushy—you will see a few of those nodules starting in late July. Nodules which never turn pink or red inside are from soil *Rhizobium* that may not be specific for peanuts. You need to differentiate these types of nodules, mostly on the lateral roots, versus the mass of 'supernodulation' on the taproot, which is ready evidence that your inoculant worked.

For West Texas, the following guideline rates nodulation levels 5 to 6 weeks after planting (Table 1, pg. 3). We are particularly interested in any developing clusters of nodules on the taproot. If early nodulation is good, you can expect it to continue to increase toward peak nodulation (usually early August), but if early nodulation is poor it probably isn't going to improve.

Terry - Yoakum Pest Management Assoc.

T-Y IPM News is a publication of Texas AgriLife Extension IPM Program in Terry and Yoakum Counties.

Editor: Scott A. Russell,
Extension Agent - IPM,
Terry & Yoakum Counties
Production: Rae Cox

Scott A. Russell

209 South Fifth Street
Brownfield, Texas 79316
Phone: 806-637-4060
Fax: 806-637-2588
Mobile: 806-893-1041
Email: sarussel@tamu.edu

IPM Websites:

- lubbock.tamu.edu/ipm
- www.tpma.org
- terry-tx.tamu.edu
- ipm.tamu.edu
- peanut.tamu.edu
- insects.tamu.edu
- plantpathology.tamu.edu/

Table 1. Early season Rhizobium nodulation rating for peanuts (Texas High Plains).

Number of Nodules per Plant	Early Season Nodulation Rating	Management Consideration
More than 20	Excellent	Likely excellent late-season nodulation N response doubtful
16 to 20	Very Good	Likely late-season nodulation also strong Reduce mid-season N goal
11 to 15	Good	Will produce good crop Anticipate some reduction in mid-season N
6 to 10	Fair	Would have liked higher nodulation Mid-season N program a decent bet
Less than 5	Poor	N fertility program essential Try to determine why nodulation is poor if field was inoculated

Southern Ornamental and Turf Conference

June 23, 2011 8:00 AM– 2:30 PM (lunch on your own)

American Legion Hall, 1021 S. 8th St., Brownfield, TX

5 Continuing Education Units (3 General, 1 IPM, 1 Law & Regs), \$10 per person

Speakers and Topics include:

Scott Russell, Extension Agent- IPM, Turfgrass Insects and Common Weeds

Dr. Gerald Henry, Texas Tech University, Turfgrass Management: Controlling Weeds

And Diseases in Turf Grass

Bob Covington, ISA Certified Arborist, Covington Landscape, Nip it in the Bud – Problems with Trees and Shrubs

Mark Brown, County Extension Agent- AG, Water Usage in Drought Situations for Turfgrass

Debbie Slocum, Texas Department of Agriculture, Laws and Regulations