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T-Y IPM News

Terry - Yoakum Pest Management Association

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AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

Current Situation

Cotton ranges from 7.5 total nodes to 16 nodes with 8.6 first position squares. Square retention rates remain high with our scouting program fields being over 90%. Nodes above white flower ranges from 5.8 to 9.

Cotton and peanuts have struggled along and are behind in development compared to most years. It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, this is due to drought and heat. Brownfield has recorded 26 days of 100 plus degrees and Plains has had 23 days at or above 100°. Then there were the winds of April, May and June which pummeled our crops. It's not hard to see why cotton is near cut-out as it begins to bloom and peanuts are slow to peg. Beyond some abnormal square development and water demand issues there is little occurring in the fields. In peanuts we are finding some foliage feeding caterpillars (see page 2). I know many peanut producers usually are ready to make preventative pod rot applications by now, but with the lack of peg development and the temperatures, it is good to hold those off a little longer (see page 2).

The final planted acres for cotton and peanuts are as follows:

Terry County-	Cotton 142,773 acres	Peanuts 9,585 acres
Yoakum County-	Cotton 64,020	Peanuts 12,068 acres

Abnormal Cotton Square Development

Cotton development can be impacted by extremes of temperature, particularly during the early season (June). Dr. Mark Kelley reported on this in the July 13 issue of Focus on South Plains Agriculture. "This phenomenon has been witnessed not only in the Texas High Plains, but in Southwest Oklahoma as well. There are three variations of this abnormal bract development. One variation occurs when a fully developed fourth bract is produced (Figure 1). Most likely, this version will result in normal boll development. The second variation occurs when a fourth bract is fused to the floral bud (Figure 2). The third variation is when the floral bud appears to have an extra growth (Figure 3). The second and third variations may result in square abortion. This appears to be associated with square development under extreme high temperatures and occurs across varieties (not variety specific)." I have seen this in some of our scouting fields.

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 Eddie Griffis, 12:30 PM, Wednesdays on Radio AM950

TEXAS IPM
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Pod rot of Peanut

Usually by 60 to 75 days after planting I am encouraging peanut growers to make preventative treatments on fields with a history of pod rot. Currently we are about approaching 75 days (or more) since planting for most peanut fields, but due to a delay in pegging and high temperatures, I'd suggest holding off on those preventative fungicide applications. There are two situations in which I would say one should consider making a preventative application for peanut pod rot: if the field has a poor rotation (i.e. peanuts after peanuts) or the field has a history of significant pod rot in the past. If neither of these describes your field, then scout the field regularly, at multiple locations to determine if pod rot is present. We are finding in research, that it can take 20 samples to adequately represent a low infestation of pod rot.

Foliage Feeding Caterpillars in Peanuts

We are finding caterpillar pests present in most of the IPM Program scouting fields. Populations are highly variable both across the region and within a field. It appears that the more "lush" areas within a field have more worms and fields which are lusher may have more worms. However our numbers this week only range from 0.5 worms per foot of row to 2.75 worms per foot of row. Spanish and Valencia peanuts should be able to tolerate six to eight worms per foot; Virginia and runner market types should be able to tolerate as many as 10 to 12 worms per foot. With these suggested thresholds stated, let me also comment on potential other issues with treating for worms. First, secondary pests are potentially a huge problem, particularly spider mites. Spider mites are present in area cotton, peanuts, pastures and weeds. They thrive in hot dry and stressed crop conditions. If you apply a non-selective insecticide (pyrethroids, organophosphate, etc) you will eliminate beneficial insects and arthropods which are keeping spider mites in check. Secondly consider the input costs you currently have in the crop and the crops potential return. I would submit that at this stage of the season a loss of some foliage will be well tolerated by peanuts without impacting yield. Monitor the worm population for several days (even a week or more) and notice if small, new worms are being seen, if not don't treat.

New Terry-Yoakum Integrated Pest Management Blog:

I am in the process of developing a blog, where I intend to post updates throughout the growing season. I anticipate these updates being posted between newsletter publications and as pest or crop production issues arise in the area. The URL for the blog is: *agrilife.org/yoakumterryipm*. I will e-mail those of you who receive this newsletter by e-mail when updates are posted. If you would like to be added to that notification, please e-mail me at: sarussel@ag.tamu.edu.

Terry - Yoakum Pest Management Assoc.

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

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