

Crop Management News

Runnels-Tom Green Counties



Integrated Pest Management
Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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If you would like to be added to our newsletter email list please email: cjwebb@ag.tamu.edu

Current Heat Units

Date	Heat Units
May 15	647
June 1	393

Turn Row Meetings:

Tuesday July 12 at 9:00am-
Wall Coop Gin

GENERAL SITUATION

This is my third week as EA-IPM for Runnels and Tom Green Counties. On June 1st I made the transition from AgriLife Research at Lubbock to AgriLife Extension at Ballinger. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you already and I look forward to getting to know the rest. The last three weeks have been very challenging for wheat harvest and cotton planting due to weather. June started with above average rainfall and below average temps but has quickly turned hot and heat units are beginning to add up.

COTTON

The cool wet weather that came in early June put a halt on cotton planting, however most of the cotton is up and looking good. Cotton is ranging from just Emerged to First Square.

Table 1. Average number of days and heat units required for the various growth stages of cotton.

Growth Stage	Days	Heat Units
Planting to Emergence	4 to 9	50 to 60
Emergence to First Square	27 to 38	425 to 475
Square to Flower	20 to 25	300 to 350
Planting to First Flower	60 to 70	775 to 850
Flower to Open Boll	45 to 65	850 to 950
Planting to Harvest Ready	130 to 160	2200 to 2600

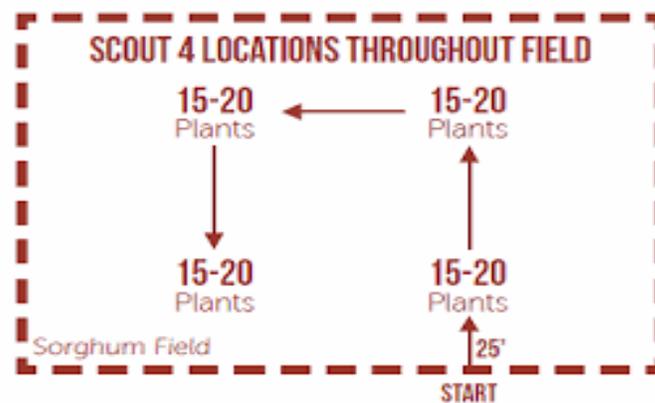
Modified from Oosterhuis, 1990

SORGHUM

There have been several concerns about Sugarcane aphid populations in our area. The last few rain events have helped to suppress numbers, however, with summer officially here they could ramp up quickly. Immature aphids develop into mature adults in about 5 days and have a life cycle of approximately four weeks. Under favorable conditions Sugarcane aphid infestations can increase by 10% in just two weeks, this is why it is very important to monitor fields with known populations 1 to 2 times a week. Here are a few monitoring guidelines.

Sugarcane Aphid Monitoring Guidelines

1. Walk 25 feet into the field and visually inspect at least 50 feet of row.
2. Look for the presence of honeydew.
 - a. If honeydew is found, look for sugarcane aphids on the underside of the above leaf.
3. Inspect the underside of 15-20 leaves from the lower and middle canopy.
4. Sample each side of the field.
5. Sample areas near fields that have Johnsongrass.



Sugarcane Aphid Threshold

Growth Stage	Threshold
Preboot	20% plants with aphids present
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

Modified from West Texas Grain Sorghum Action Threshold

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