



# Pest Management News Runnels-Tom Green Counties



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## General Situation

Hot and dry. Area crops continue to progress rapidly. Keep praying for rain. Water use goes up tremendously during the bloom/boll stage. See the short article below.

Monitor your grain sorghum fields for the population and location of sugarcane aphids. A lot of grain sorghum is being harvested now and in the next weeks. Be mindful of SCA moving up into the head in fields treated with a glyphosate. Keep pre-harvest intervals in mind when making insecticide treatments. Sivanto – 21 days for grain (7 days for hay); Transform – 14 days for grain (7 days for hay).

Joshua Blanek, CEA  
Tom Green County

## Cotton

Insect problems remain low in the cotton this week except for a few isolated areas of Cotton Aphids and Spidermites. Monitor for both of these pests and Stink bugs.

Management and decision making for stink bugs are to examine 6 row feet of cotton in several locations in the field. When there is an average of one or more stink bugs per 6 feet of row, feeding can cause excessive loss of squares and small bolls and may stain lint. Additionally, at least 50 small bolls (the diameter of a quarter) should be examined. If 20% of the small bolls have evidence of internal feeding (callous growth on internal boll wall and/or stained lint) and stink bugs are present then treatment should be considered. Stink bugs often are clumped near field margins.



## Cotton Sensitivity to Stress and Stage of Development

*National Cotton Council-Cotton Physiology Today; Volume 10, Number 2, 1999*



Cotton has an indeterminate growth habit and can suspend growth and development under adverse conditions. Even so, there are periods in the life of the plant that are more sensitive to water stress than others. Growing conditions during these periods of sensitivity determine yield.

## Cotton Sensitivity to Stress and Stage of Development



Every production environment has length limits, whether they be weather-related or insect-related. Therefore, earliness is critical to production of an acceptable, economical yield.

The concept of nodes above white flower (NAWF), is an excellent indicator of yield potential at first flower. If a cotton plant has 8-10 NAWF at first flower, it already has established 15-18 floral buds per plant and has tremendous yield potential. It is a robust plant.

However, if the plant starts to flower with only 5-6 NAWF, it has suffered major water stress resulting in only first position fruiting sites. Its yield will be severely limited, no matter what the subsequent conditions.

Boll size (lint/boll) also was strongly correlated with water supply from square initiation to first flower. Boll size has a strong genetic component, but lint per boll is highly correlated with seed per boll. A healthy cotton plant at first flower (8-10 NAWF) produces 30-32 seed per boll; whereas, a stressed plant has more variation from boll-to-boll and averages only 24-26 seed per boll, or less.

### Total Heat Unit (HU) Accumulations

Planting Date	Total HU Accumulation as of August 6, 2015	Long Term Average
May 15, 2015	1,741	1,745
May 25, 2015	1,616	1,617
June 5, 2015	1,449	1,456
June 15, 2015	1,234.5	1,253

### Upcoming Events

#### Turnrow Meetings

- Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at Wall Coop at 9:00am – Bill Thompson
- Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at Wall Coop at 9:00am – Dr. Charles Allen
- Tuesday, August 25 at Wall Coop at 9:00am – Dr. Gaylon Morgan

**Concho Valley Small Grain Meeting – Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Lowake Community Center in Lowake. Registration at 8:30 am, Program from 9:00 – 2:00. 3 CEUs. Registration and lunch is free for those who RSVP by Aug. 14 and \$25 for those registering at the door. To RSVP or for more information, contact the AgriLife Extension offices in Tom Green County at 325-659-6523; Coke County at 325-453-2461 or Runnels County at 325-365-5042.

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