

YOAKUM COUNTY NEWS IN AGRICULTURE

5/27/2013

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THRIPS

Thrips are a main concern during the first four weeks after plant emergence. Thrips are tiny (about 0.8 mm in length), slender, spindle shaped, pale yellow colored insects that cause damage by feeding; scrapping and sucking, on plant tissues, especially young seedlings.

For methods of control you may choose to use a seed treatment or make foliar applications. I have checked wheat throughout Yoakum County for thrips and there are a good number of thrips present in wheat. These thrips should not be ignored are a concern.

Several seed treatment options are currently available, such as imidacloprid (Aeris®, Aeris + Trilex Advanced®, Acceleron I®, Acceleron FI®), thiamethoxam (Cruiser®, Cruiser Dynasty®, Avicta Complete®, Acceleron N®) and clothianidin (Poncho/Votivo®). If you planted insecticide treated seed, your crop should be protected for approximately two to three weeks. Seed treatments should also protect cotton seedlings from other potential soil dwelling insect pests such as wireworms.

If your seed was not treated with insecticide, and depending on thrips numbers on the cotton seedlings, you may choose to control thrips with a foliar application of Acephate (Orthene 97®).

Following seed germination, scout the crop for the presence of thrips. Insecticide application decisions should be made based on the number of thrips found with consideration of the economic threshold. The current economic threshold for thrips in young cotton seedling is one thrips per true leaf. However, depending on plant growth, the threshold should be adjusted. When seedling growth is slow and thrips continue to feed, the threshold could be lowered to half of the original threshold. In order to monitor thrips numbers in your field, gently pull 5-10 randomly selected seedlings from a few representative sites in a field and examine the under side of the cotyledons, leaves and terminals of those seedlings. Thrips like to hide in closed spaces where their body is in constant touch with the plant surface. Since terminals have more closed spaces than open leaves, you are likely to see more thrips once that terminal is opened.

If you would like to see how scouting for thrips is done you can watch our video on how to scout for thrips at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGOH8mU5o-c>.

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Monthly Precipitation (inches)

	2013	2012
January	0.63	0.23
February	0.75	0.30
March	0.04	0.31
April	0.00	0.66
May	1.22	0.99
June	—	0.53
July	—	1.55
August	—	0.78
September	—	2.36
October	—	0.20
November	—	0.03
December	—	0.36
Total	2.64	8.30

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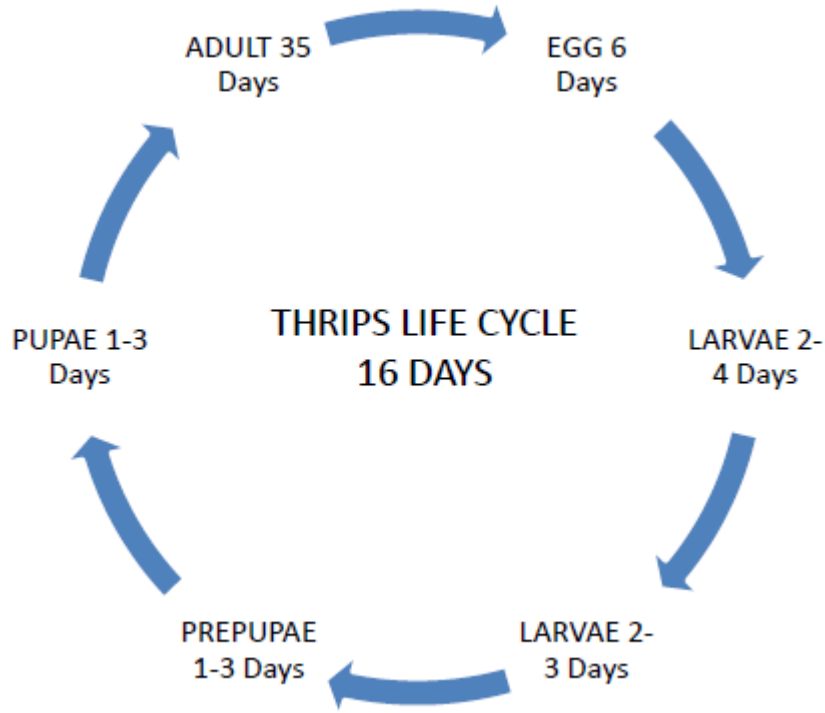
Thrip Life Cycle

Picture of Adult Thrip

Picture of Pupae Thrip

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Thrips Life Cycle



Pupae



Adult