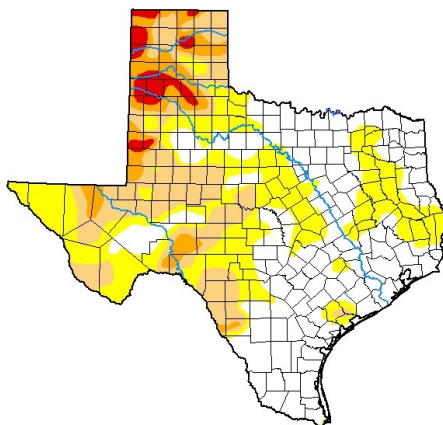


JULY 3, 2020

### General Status

It was another hot dry week until Thursday night when some fields in Swisher and northern Hale received some much-needed moisture. Amounts were highly variable. According to Pivot Track Rain Page, the amounts varied between a trace and 1.5-inches with most stations recording 0.2-inches or so. I currently have no information on hail damage from this storm. While it came with a fair amount of ferocity at its core, there seemed to be less damage associated with this cell. Crops, if ample soil moisture was available, progressed well this week, racking up the heat units during somewhat wind reduced days. Those that were short on irrigation shown stress quickly in the heat. Weeds continue to plague fields with usual vigor and pests were active but not acutely severe in the heat.

#### U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



June 30, 2020

(Released Thursday, Jul. 2, 2020)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	42.41	57.59	27.97	9.60	2.87	0.00
Last Week 06-23-2020	47.22	52.78	24.82	9.17	1.38	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-31-2020	73.40	26.60	20.26	14.60	5.47	0.35
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	44.69	55.31	36.12	9.19	0.74	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	31.74	68.26	46.05	22.33	6.32	0.00
One Year Ago 07-02-2019	94.84	5.16	1.34	0.05	0.00	0.00

- Intensity:
- None
  - D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Moderate Drought
  - D2 Severe Drought
  - D3 Extreme Drought
  - D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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 Adam Hartman  
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

#### Plainview Heat Unit Calculator

**Cumulative Heat Unit Calculator**

Start Date: 4/20/2020    Crop: **Corn**    End Date: 9/10/2020

**Total Heat Units: 1688.00**

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Start Date: 5/11/2020    Crop: **Cotton**    End Date: 10/10/2020

**Total Heat Units: 802.90**



Two weather ravaged fields in Hale (left) and Swisher (right) making up for lost time in the heat.

## Cotton

This week our PPM scouting program ranged in stage from 2<sup>nd</sup> true leaf wildcat cotton up to ½ grown square with most fields falling somewhere between large match head square and ¼ grown square stage. Our largest pest of concern was fleahoppers again, but no field was near economic threshold (ET). About 3 out of 4 fields had some level of fleahoppers that could be detected with drop cloth or sweep net scouting methods in fields developed enough for these scouting techniques, while our younger fields that required whole plant inspections only, we were finding fewer fleahopper positive fields. Our highest fleahopper field sported 1 fleahopper per 6.8 row feet while most fields sported 1 fleahopper per 22.5 row feet or less. Our square drop ranged between 2% and 12.9% with most fields coming in between 8% and 10%.

We did find one Lygus in our data sets this week, but this heftier plant bug has not made any major move toward cotton yet. We also were picking up a few foliage feeding larvae such as beet armyworms and cabbage loopers this week, but nothing above 600 worms per acre with Bt still showing good activity on these pests and beneficials holding in non-Bt fields. A few more stink bugs shown in our data sets for a handful of fields in both counties, but not near any economic level with the highest being 1 stink bug per 25.6 row feet.



1/2 grown square this week.

We were steadily picking up varying levels of false chinch bugs (FCB) in just about every field this week. Counts ranged from one every 2.3 row feet up to one every 0.8 row feet. This translates into quite a few FCB, between 2 and 9 per drop cloth. Considering how the ET for this pest is 25 per seedling plant, we should be in good shape despite the impressionable numbers. With FCB, it takes many, many insects to accumulate enough damage to warrant treatment. This week, we were having a hard time determining what, if any, damage this level of FCB activity was having on our cotton plants. It is my understanding that early in the week, some field scouts in the region had miss-identified these FCB as Lygus. This initiated a near panic that fortunately was corrected before any action was taken. While both FCB and Lygus are in the same order and share some similar characteristics, they should not be mistaken for one another.

False Chinch  
Bug Adult



Lygus  
Adult





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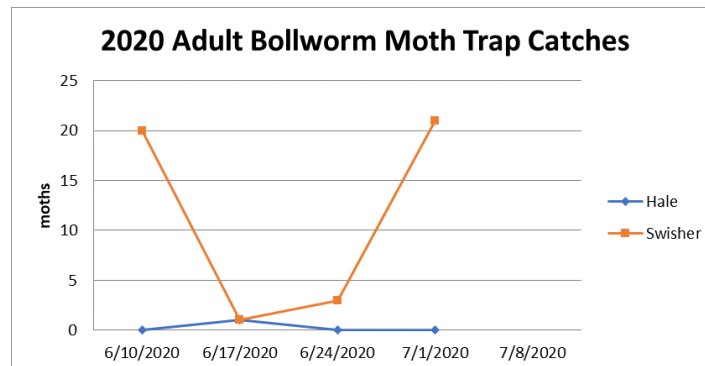
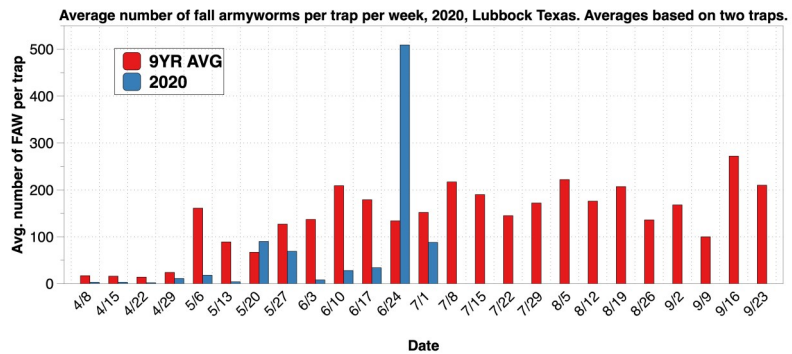
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## Corn and Sorghum

Our corn and sorghum progressed well again this week, but a few fields were visibly showing the stress from the heat as irrigation systems work overtime again. Unfortunately, we still do not have any fields in peak water use yet. Any moisture is as good as gold to these fields over the upcoming weeks and months. Our youngest program grain field is germinating while our oldest is at VX with a few leaves to go before tassel. While I have noted a few early planted corn fields in the area already starting to tassel, the majority of our fields are near or about V8-V11. The pest situations in these whorl stage fields were not as catatonic as last week but nothing was nearing ET. Banks grass mites were found on a few lower leaves in most corn fields and some very light whorl feeding can be noted in most sorghum and non-Bt corn fields. In most cases this was the fall armyworm. For both of these pest situations, beneficials seem to be holding for now. More whorl feeding can be expected based upon trap numbers from last week and mite populations can be expected to increase rapidly in post tassel corn, especially if the drought situation continues. Bollworm trap numbers remain very, very light at this time.



Have a GREAT 4th!

*Blayne Reed*