

WEST
PLAINS
IPM
UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley,
Cochran, and
Lamb Counties
from
Kerry Siders

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COTTON CROP UPDATE – 2,4-D INJURY

Most everyone received at least a half inch of rain Sunday night, early Monday morning. For most this was a blessing and answer to prayer. However, for many it may ruin a bunch of seed if it does not receive another rain in the very near future. We are still in a very tough spot right now. Our hope and prayer is that forecasters are correct in that they are indicating a moderation of temperatures after Thursday with continued potential for rain.

The primary reason for writing this newsletter now is due to many calls and questions from both producers and homeowners on damage to their plants. What I have seen is 2,4-D injury, whether it is a tomato plant, a fruit tree, a cotton plant or many other plant species. This damage is the typical strapping of leaf; leathery, puckered, thick leaf tissue; and twisted, distorted tissue. See image below of cotton plant with 2,4-D injury.



The question is where is this herbicide coming from? Most likely scenario is this: many acres of no-till and minimum till acres were treated back in February and March with 2,4-D to control winter weeds. This is common practice. However, a perfect storm gathered after these applications which has caused the 2,4-D to “gas off” or volatilize some time later. Since the applications it has remained very dry, combined with high temperatures and high evapotranspiration, winds, and lack of tillage. These factors did not allow the herbicide to break down in the soil but rather persist until recently. Then moved out of the soil in a vapor/gas state with the high evaporation from the soil. Subsequently injuring any susceptible plant in its path. I think the worst is over, and in most cases I do not think the injury is mortal. Understand some of the injury noted was self-inflicted (in the same field as a 2,4-D application). There is no way to be certain where specifically the herbicide may have moved from, so no need now to point fingers. The lesson though is this – always be very careful spraying 2,4-D in dry conditions prior to plant, even 2-3 months out.

Private Pesticide Applicators Training 2018 Cochran, Hockley and Lamb Counties

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Morton, Levelland and Littlefield throughout 2018. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individuals must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the trainings in Levelland; or 806-266-5215 by 3pm the day prior to any trainings in Morton. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location. Future PAT Trainings:

- **May 10 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street**
- June 21 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street 5
- July 24 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- August 16 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- Sept 13 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- October 23 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- Nov 29 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of training.

See You On The Radio



Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am..



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