

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

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Current Pests and Crop Situation

Cotton ranges from just starting to bloom to hard cut-out (0 nodes above white flower). Ideally cotton will be blooming out-the-top by now; because we have reached that point when the odds of a bloom developing into a quality/yield contributing boll will drop considerably over the next several days. In fact, the scouts and I noticed fields beginning to shed squares and some small bolls this week. This is a normal process of the plant making a final adjustment in what the plant can naturally hold and mature out. Be sure though that this fruit shed is natural and not being induced by bollworms. We are still picking up bollworm activity in many fields, including Bt cotton. We have sprayed most conventional cotton acres. We are also finding a few cotton aphids. Most of these aphids are in mostly small clusters with many aphids, with good beneficial activity. Be careful to not get too aggressive with these cotton aphids, but do not hesitate if they are consistent and reach 40-70 aphids per leaf. Here is the cotton aphid guide which discusses threshold, chemical control and other considerations: http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/07/Cotton-aphid_ENTO074.pdf .

Continue to scout for another couple of weeks. By September 1st most cotton acres should have well over 400 heat units accumulated since reaching <5 nodes above white flower stage (August 5). This gauge of time tells us that a crop is safe from most insect damage.

Here of late, questions about irrigation have been most prominent. I will admit I get conservative with irrigation as we move into the last days of August and would rather err on the side of being too dry than too wet going into September. We have already had our chance of making quantity, now it is a matter of achieving quality through maturity. The last bolls set during this time need to be relatively stress free for 20 days (approximately September 8th). So, if the plant recovers quickly from any wilting during a +90-degree day then those last bolls formed should mature properly. Forty to forty-five days after the last harvestable boll is formed (approximately September 30th), the plant can nearly go into permanent wilt and it should not have an impact on yield or quality. So, bottom line – be very careful watering over the next few weeks. Call if questions.

Grain sorghum must be scouted on a weekly basis, checking for the sugarcane aphid. Here is the guide: http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2016/05/ENTO-035_Sugarcane_Aphid-Management_2016.pdf .

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:

- 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.

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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