

Plains Pest Management News

July 25, 2011

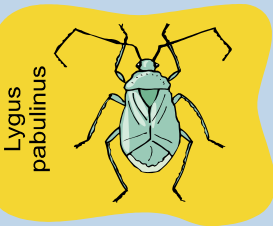
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Cotton

Cotton ranges from early bloom to early boll set. Cotton going into bloom has ranged from 4 nodes above white bloom to 8 nodes above white bloom. Those fields in early bloom with 3 to 4 nodes above white bloom will have a limited yield potential and those at 7 to 8 nodes above white bloom will have an excellent yield potential if water needs can continue to be met.

Lygus bugs have been observed in area cotton, but infestations remain very light and little damage has been observed. This is a pest to keep scouting for over the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Cotton bollworm oviposition has been observed in a few fields, but larval infestations were not detected. Beneficials in cotton are moderate compared to recent growing seasons, but numbers are probably adequate to take care of our light bollworm egg lays. Common beneficials observed this past week have been big-eyed bugs, damsel bugs, spiders, pirate bugs and lady beetles.

Corn & Sorghum

Banks grass mites have been the dominant pest observed in both corn and sorghum. As corn has progressed into later stages of reproductive growth mites have increased rapidly. Beneficials have been variable, with six-spotted thrips and spider mite destroyer lady beetles the most common predators feeding in colonies. In corn fields where irrigation needs have been somewhat met, the beneficials have been able to slow mite progression and damage. In fields that have major irrigation issues mites have increased rapidly requiring control.

Fall armyworms and beet armyworms have been found in both corn and sorghum. In whorl stage sorghum feeding damage can look dramatic, but treatment is not often suggested. In the boot to heading stage in sorghum the armyworm complex and corn earworms can cause direct yield loss by feeding on the grain. A beat bucket can be used to sample heads and threshold tables found in "Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Sorghum" B-1220. This may be found at: <https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications>

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

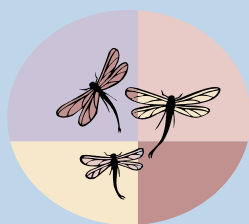
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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES