

Plains Pest Management News

July 8, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 4



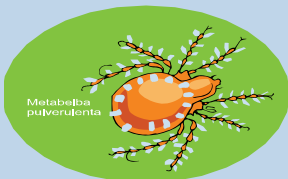
Inside this issue:

General

Cotton

Corn

Water



General

Hot, dry conditions continue, although a few areas had up to 0.25 inch rain last weekend. This may have only provided a short period of relief to irrigated crops. Some early planted cotton is now entering bloom and about 25% of corn was tasseling and silking this past week. Plant height on tasseling corn was variable ranging from 60 inches to 89 inches tall. Most fields were around 75 inches tall at tassel. Overall, corn is about a foot shorter than the previous two years for this point in the growing season.

Cotton

In general, most fields are in the second and third week of squaring. Percent square set has been very good considering the environmental conditions with counts ranging from 85% to 98%. A few cotton fleahoppers continue to be observed in area fields and may not develop into a problem with the current drought conditions.

Spider mites remain in some area cotton, but so far they have not caused major foliage damage. This is a pest which can develop rapidly and cause substantial damage with hot, dry conditions.

A few beet armyworms have been reported by field scouts, but infestations remain light at this time. This is a pest that thrives during hot, dry weather. Some may remember the widespread outbreaks and damage from beet armyworms which occurred in 1980, a season somewhat similar to this one.

Corn

Banks grass mite infestations continue to be observed in all area corn fields. Infestations are highly variable from a few scattered colonies to fields which are approaching 30% leaf damage in the lower 1/3 of the plant. Six spotted thrips has been the key predator observed in area corn this past week. In some cases 80% of the colonies have been consumed by this predator and in others only 10% of the colonies have been effectively removed. As corn enters the reproductive stage, Banks grass mite populations can increase at a much greater rate than during pre-tassel. This is a time to monitor fields closely. Miticide selection may be based on presence or absence of key mite predators. Oberon miticide has been reported to have



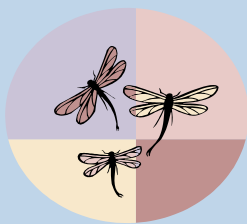
less impact on beneficials than say our old standard of Capture & Dime-throate. Other products to consider are Onager and Comite II.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Hale County Office
225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, Texas 79072

Tel. 806.291.5274
Fax 806.291.5266
E-Mail: gcronholm@ag.tamu.edu

Greg Cronholm,
Extension Agent—IPM
Emeritus



We're on the
Web
Hale-tx.tamu.edu



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES

Water

Some growers have had to abandon some of their corn acreage due to limited water. The last week of June our crop water demands for corn were 0.50 inches per day for 12 leaf corn and 0.57 inches per day for blister stage corn. This would be 3.5 inches per week for late whorl stage corn. This means to supply 80% of demand one would need about 8 gpm per acre well capacity or irrigation total capacity.

Some have been concerned about pollination on corn. We should be okay since most pollen is shed during the morning hours when temperatures are cooler.

Some cotton also has to be abandoned due to inability to keep up with water demands. Again the last week of June squaring cotton had a water demand of 0.41 inches per day or 2.87 inches per week. We can usu-

ally keep cotton in good condition and yield potential by supplying 75% of the water demand, which means one would need an irrigation supply of six gallons per minute per acre. So, if one has a 120 acre circle of cotton, full demand could be met at 720 gpm flow rate.

Educational programs by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.