AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

Plains Pest Management News

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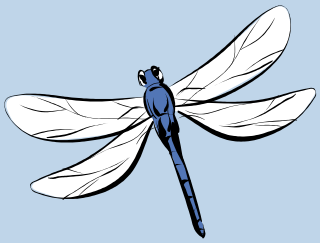

Cotton

Cotton ranges from late square to the beginning of the third week of bloom. Scattered showers from a few tenths to 1.5 inches have fallen over the area.

Cotton fleahoppers have been on the increase in many cotton fields, but square retention has generally remained above 85%. Isolated spots in fields have been at 75%, but when averaged with other areas in the field, percent square sets have been in the 90% range. A few fields still remain very close to 100% square set, which is very good. As we move into full bloom the cotton fleahopper infestations are of little concern. This is the time Lygus populations begin to show up. They can damage all size squares and small bolls. So far, Lygus infestations remain light.

The next generation of beet armyworms has been reported in cotton. So far, infestations remain below treatment levels. Growers with non-Bt cotton should be on the lookout for this pest.

Nodes above white bloom or flower ranged from 6 to 10. Most counts have been at 7 to 9 nodes above white flower. Once a field falls to 5 nodes above white flower it is considered to be entering "cut out'. This should be avoided this early in the season. Continued irrigation can help to delay entering into pre-mature cut-out.

Corn

Corn continues to be in excellent condition. The high humidity and scattered rains have helped to prevent major stress. Most fields range from early silk to soft dough stage. A number are at "blister" to "roasting ear" stage.

Corn earworm and fall armyworm have been found feeding on ears. So far, damage has been light to moderate. Southwestern corn borers have not been observed yet, but inspections have been mostly in Bt corn.

Banks grass mites are present in most fields, but so far beneficial activity helped stabilize populations. Banks grass mites infestations can increase rapidly during the reproductive stage of corn. Drought conditions can increase mite damage potential to foliage. Also, insecticide applications for fall

armyworm or southwestern corn borer can create mite outbreaks when mite predators are removed from the field.

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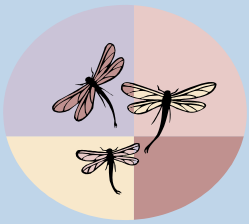
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES



We're on the Web
http://
hale.agrilife.org

Weed Resistance

I have a number of reports of tolerant or resistant pigweed in Hale and Swisher Counties.

Monte Vandiver, IPM agent in Parmer and Bailey counties tested four rates of Roundup on pigweed which had already been treated in cotton. He looked at 22, 44, 66 and 88 oz./a rates. At the end of the test 14 days after treatment, pigweed survival was found in all plots. This will probably call for a new approach to pigweed management for next year.