

JUNE 18, 2021

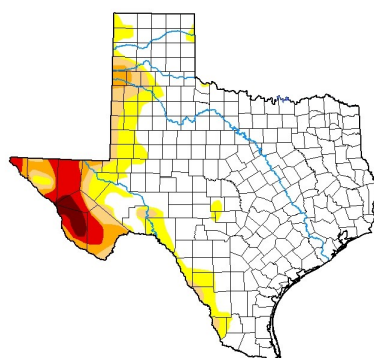
General Status

The heat is certainly on, and we hope the water spigot has not been shut off for too long. Despite having gone through so much adversity and having been (and in the case of most cotton, still) looking a touch rough, our crops are advancing almost as fast as untreated weeds. Most of our grain crop fields have recovered so that it is hard to tell they ever received damage. Even cotton ripping through two leaf stages a week, at least, with some of the older fields starting to sport pin-head squares. Most fields have seen the shadow of planters, sprayers, sand-fighters, and even airplanes with a lot of activity and headway have been made. There are survivors, but most weeds are wilting or showing damage and residuals are out and our attention turns toward the next steps.



U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

June 15, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jun. 17, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

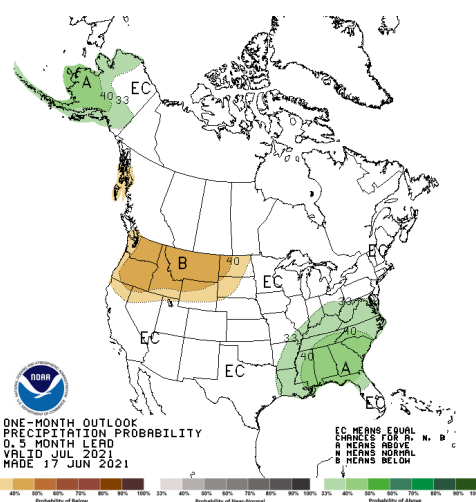
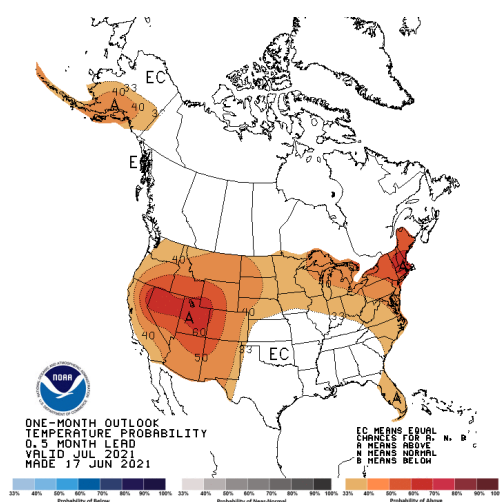
Author:
Curtis Riggs
National Drought Mitigation Center



Cumulative Heat Unit Calculator

Start Date		End Date
4/26/2021	Corn	10/1/2021
Total Heat Units		1052.10
Start Date		End Date
5/24/2021	Cotton	11/1/2021
Total Heat Units		366.80

Calculate



Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management scouting program cotton ranges in stage from cotyledon up to pinhead square stage with most fields falling in between 3rd and 4th true leaf stage. Thrips were our primary pest of concern this week. This population remains light compared to an average season, but we are certainly find-

ing fields over economic threshold (ET) for thrips. I estimate only about 10% of our fields needed thrips treatment this week with even most fields usually automatically treated for thrips with the first over-the-top sprays have not been particularly heavy. Our thrips counts ranged from 0 thrips found in field up to 1.9 thrips per true leaf with the ET being 1 thrips per true leaf stage.

As we started picking up a few fields with pinhead squares here and there, we started counting square drop and scouting for fleahoppers. We only found one field with fleahoppers on any cotton this week at 12% infested terminals and no square drop. With



Surviving S Hale field sporting pin-head squares.

fields having recently been treated with herbicides we should be very watchful for this pest, especially if silver leaf nightshade weeds (SLN) are present. As this fleahopper preferred host plant dries down they will jump over to cotton where they can do serious damage to the all important first fruit our young crops are putting on. This morning I was scouting in northern Hale County on a cotton field fairly heavy with SLN and treated with herbicide in the last 48

hours. The SLN were still juicy but showing serious damage. With my boot I quick drop/ disturbance test for fleahoppers on one of the weeds and 12 fleahoppers plopped onto my drop cloth. The potential is certainly there for ET issues over the next few weeks. The ET at this stage cotton is 35% infested terminals with 8-12% square drop (or conversely 88-92% fruit retention). Once the plants are large enough we will incorporate drop cloths with our whole plant inspections to aid us in finding plant bugs. ET for match head square to ½ grown square using drop cloths is 1 fleahopper / 2.5 row feet. This ET slides upwardly for fruit damage as the plant matures and places more squares.

With cotton progressing so rapidly, we are strongly considering blanket recommending a light PGR application at match head square stage for fields with moderate to high yield potential.



Replanted SW Swisher Field off to a quick start.



Fleahopper nymphs are very small and hide well in the similarly colored cotton.



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Corn and Sorghum

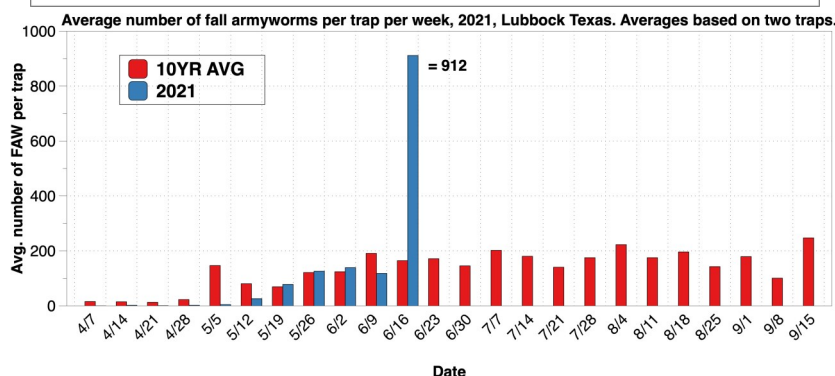
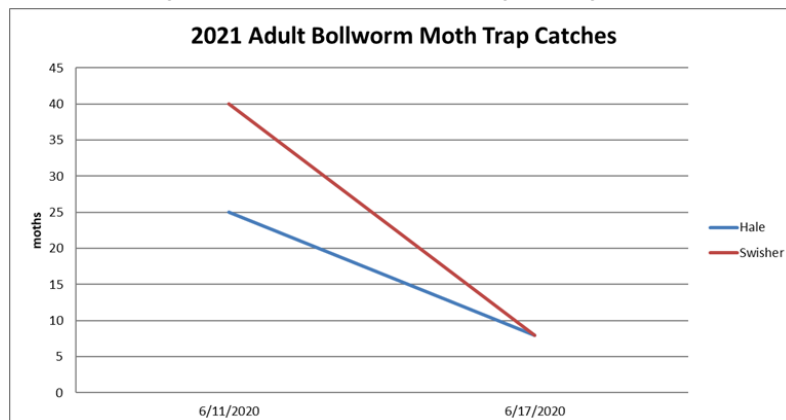
Our oldest corn has reached V9 Stage and our oldest sorghum V7. Our youngest fields are still being planted but we have plenty of fields just emerging at V1 or V2. We expect we are nearing the tail end of the late grain plantings.

Weeds remained our largest but lessening concern in most of these fields with pests very few and hard to find. We did find one fall armyworm 'hit' today in a whorl stage seed milo field in northwest Hale and a lonely banks



NW Hale corn fully recovered from hail damage.

grass mite colony on the edge of our older corn, but these are the only pests found. Dr. Pat Porter is still reporting an extremely heavy FAW moth flight in Lubbock County with heavy whorl stage feeding in that area. We are yet to find those issues on any large scale in our fields yet, but it is very likely approaching with areas to our southwest and southeast finding damage also. ET for whorl feeding remains at or above 30% foliage damage.



Blayne Reed