

JULY 16, 2021

General Status

Last night the area received another rain event. According to Pivotrack Rain Page, areas south of Hale Center toward Abernathy received a 1/10 up to a 1/2 -inch while around Kress fields received anywhere from 1 1/2-inches up to 3-inches. We can certainly say this is a widespread and timely rain event that occurred just as irrigations were about to get into full swing again. I am unaware of any hail or otherwise harsh weather issues yet. Unfortunately for our scouting schedule, the heaviest rains were on the last fields we needed to cover for the week. We will be scouting these fields just as soon as possible as there are several issues ongoing. The fleahopper pressure in cotton remains our primary concern and need to scout already delayed fields soon to stop any potential damage that might be acquiring but it is a busy time of year for our 'late' crops.

Cumulative Heat Unit Calculator		
Start Date		End Date
4/26/2021	Corn	10/1/2021
Total Heat Units		1696.65
Start Date		End Date
5/24/2021	Cotton	11/1/2021
Total Heat Units		771.35
Calculate		

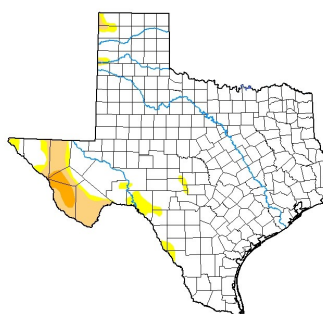


First Bloom from a southern Hale cotton field this week was the oddity rather than the normal.

This Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
High: 91 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 91 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 82 °F

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

July 13, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jul. 15, 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:
Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

USDA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Cotton

We did spy a few very rare blooms this week in a few of our PPM scouting program cotton fields, but the vast majority of our fields fell in between $\frac{1}{4}$ grown square and $\frac{3}{4}$ grown square. Fruit retention, and conversely, fruit drop was very dependent upon the fleahopper population present. It was common for fields without economic fleahopper pressure to exhibit 7-15% square drop. If the fleahoppers were making nuisances of themselves, that drop rose above 15-25% pretty readily with a few reaching over 30%. Of the fields treated for fleahoppers last week, we are seeing a steady improvement in square retention with new squares coming into place with plant growth and fruiting node development.



Photo showing serious fruit drop (top) with 1st position missing, 2nd position blasted, and 3rd discolored VS normal developing square positions post fh control (bottom)

Around 60% of our PPM cotton fields have been recommended for fleahopper control treatments so far with a few more likely to finish out the week. In several of our fleahopper rich areas still seeing pressure like we have not seen in many years that includes continued reinfestation and extended egg hatching. In fields where producers or custom applicators opted for shorter residual products, the fleahoppers might need to be treated again soon as the control runs out if this level of pressure remains. I would urge producers to choose longer residual control options that preferably conserve beneficial insects. In several borderline fields we are seeing an uptick in beneficial populations successfully keeping the fleahoppers in check without any treatment. In still more fields, fleahoppers are hard to find.



Field near Abernathy recovering from fh damage and treatment this week.

We have reports of very high Lygus and even some stink bug populations existing in nearby areas, but we are still only finding just a few sporadic Lygus not anywhere near ET yet with just 2 stink bugs found in the whole program cotton fields this week. Weed control, PGRs and fertilizer applications remain a steady concern for most of our program cotton fields again this week.



A furrow full of recently controlled small weed



Salvador Vitanza, Ph.D.



Salvador Vitanza, Ph.D.

Nabids (damselfly nymphs), big-eyed bugs, and minute pirate bugs all seem to be of particular impact on fh populations.



Sorghum and Corn

Our oldest corn is silking and going through pollination now while our youngest is at an early V2. Our youngest sorghum is emerging and our oldest is in flag to boot. We are still not seeing any major pests in these program field crops. We noted a few small YELLOW sugarcane aphid colonies, one green bug colony, some easy to find but far below ET fall armyworm whorl feeding, and a few Banks grass mite colonies. We have reports of serious disease issues in corn north of Amarillo in corn. While conditions should be perfect for several disease issues in our corn this summer, we are not finding very much yet. In fact, I have not even been able to train my new scouts and interns on the different types of rust yet. We have reports of sorghum midge all the way up in western Kansas already and we should be scouting our oldest fields for this pest next week as they come into bloom stage. We also have a report of a small infestation of sugarcane aphids from off the caprock in extreme eastern



Images from our oldest corn & sorghum.



FAW pulled from a sorghum whorl this week.

Floyd, but no sign of them in our Hale and Swisher program sorghum yet. This should be right on 'schedule' for their late July arrival. The high volume of late sorghum we have will be at risk from the sugarcane aphid soon. I remain confident that we can control this pest economically even in our late sorghum with all of the IPM plans developed from the lessons learned about this aphid, but we will need to be on guard soon and ready implement solid control when they arrive.



AgriLife Extension Service / Texas Pest Management Association

225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072
Tel: 806.291.5267
Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail: Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

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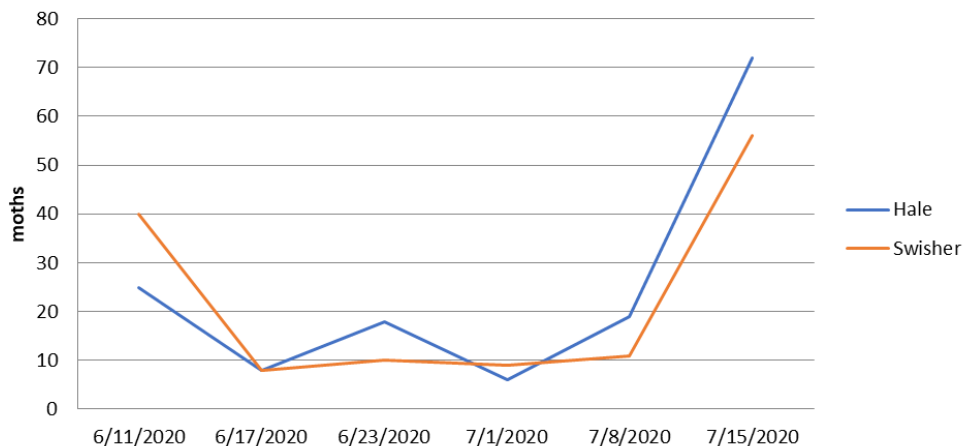
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2021 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches



Hands on Field Scout Training

Monday, July 19, 2021

Halfway Experiment Station 9AM

- practical cotton and corn plant mapping
- NAWF and other cotton plant measurements for irrigation and PGR scheduling
- early Lepidopteran cotton pests
- midseason plant bug scouting
- SWCB/ECB/FAW/WBCW and mite scouting in corn
- midge, SCA, and headworm scouting in sorghum

Texas A&M AgriLife early career professionals
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Blayne Reed