Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

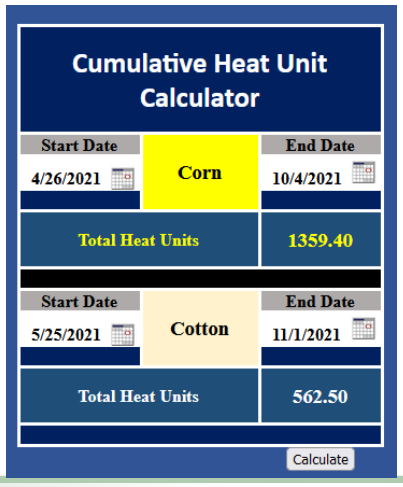
Plains Pest Management News

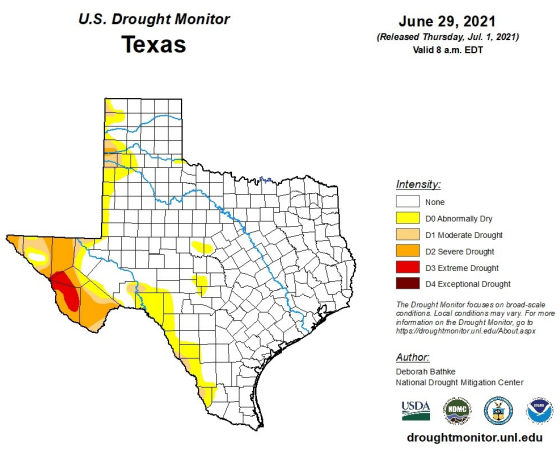
JULY 2, 2021

General Status

It has been a wet, cool week and no one is complaining about the moisture, a few hailed on strips aside. Rainfall amounts are highly variable. By my best estimate every area in the Hale & Swisher area has now received at least 1-inch over the past week with most areas receiving many inches more. The rain has certainly delayed our scouting (and many producers actions) this week as we have only been able to scout about 50% of our acres this week with a few mudholes found by our scouts. There will be multiple issues of concern once the roads and fields dry enough to allow scouting and farming that go far beyond an evaluation of potential weather damage. There is a heavy strain on our residual herbicides and we are finding some fields with economic pest issues this week with unreachable/un-scoutable fields in an unknown state.

Late planted grain crops are loving the moisture this week.





Weeds

A few existing weeds in a cotton field this week having survived treatments so far.

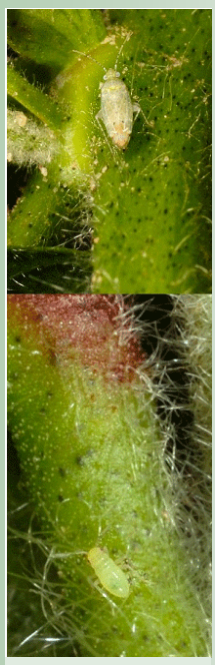
I made the statement at the Plains Cotton Growers Advisory Group meeting this morning that I felt our weed control was, with a huge amount of effort and multiple hurdles, really pretty good, given the circumstances. The 'given the circumstances' statement can certainly be underscored. I feel that our residual controls have been and continue to provide benefit it is clear that these latest rains are flushing a fresh batch of weeds with many that might be coming through our residuals. Dr. Peter Dotray, Texas Tech/Texas A&M AgriLife Weed Scientist, this morning at the Advisory Group meeting added for the region, "These rains is certainly a challenging situation for weed control, but one few are complaining about as we all know what happens without the rain… But, I would expect that our pre-plant residual herbicides are breaking, if they have not already, and our pre-emerge and early post-emerge herbicides are starting to break. This might need to be a consideration as we make our next pass with sprays to control the existing weeds in the field."

A few weeds emerging through residual treatments this week. We do not know how many would be flushing without the residual's activity.

Cotton

One of our younger cotton fields enjoying the rain this week.

Of the 50% of our PPM scouting program fields we were able to reach this week ranged in stage from 3rd true leaf stage up to a rare 1/3 grown square. The vast majority of our fields are coming in between pinhead and matchhead square stage. I would broadly consider this crop behind in development compared to average for the area, but it is a really good-looking crop with the extra moisture, particularly the dryland. Despite it being July now, we did find one of our later fields with an economic level of thrips. These later fields certainly do not need to be set farther back from this pest, if present.



Fleahopper adult (top) and nymph (bottom)

Last week I expected to find a few scattered fleahopper infested fields. Unfortunately, I was not wrong. To date, in roughly 10% of our cotton fields we had to recommend treatment for this pest. we did have plenty of fields where no plant bugs were found, but I cannot say that this pest is concentrated in any pocket region in the area. These fields are scattered fairly evenly across both counties. They were among our older fields and did have annual issues with silverleaf nightshade or are nearby pasture/grass lands. If we found fleahoppers in out fields they came in between 1 fleahopper per 1.35 row feet (using the drop cloth method) up to 1 fleahopper per 38.2 row feet but treatable fields had experienced an increase in square drop from less than 2% up to 10-12% during the last week and had a significant portion of the population as nymphs having emerged from the egg lately. We did pickup a few Lygus and even a few stink bugs in our a few fields, but they seemed pretty subdued so far. We also noted some hefty hail damage in some cotton fields this week. In the worst case the producer lost 50% of the plant terminals but did not have a reduction in plant stand with plants growing back rapidly from alternate growth points. For now, we think it still best to keep these particular few fields, but it is severely set back in development and, likely in turn, yield potential. We will need to remind ourselves of this limitation once the field looks fully recovered late in the season with our inputs and agronomic management inputs.

Pest	Product Name/ Common Name	Active Ingredient/s	Formulated Rate (fl oz or oz/A)	lb AI/A	Acres Treated per gallon/lb	Signal Word	Insecticide Class (*IRAC Groups)	Re-entry Interval	Pre-harvest Interval
Cotton Fleahopper									
	Vydate C-LV 3.77	oxamyl	8–32	0.125–0.5	16–4	Danger	Carbamate (1A)	48h	14
	Orthene 97	acephate^	4	0.244	4	Caution	Organophosphate (1B)	24h	21
	Acephate 90 Prill	acephate	4.4	0.248	3.64	Caution	Organophosphate (1B)	24h	21
	Intruder Max 70WP/Strafer Max	acetamiprid^	0.6–1.1	0.025–0.05	26.67–14.55	Caution	Neonicotinoid (4A)	12h	28
	Carbine 50WG	flonicamid	1.7–2.8	0.053–0.089	9.41–5.71	Warning	Flonicamid (29)	12h	30
	Centric 40 WG	thiamethoxam	1.25–2.5	0.0313–0.0625	12.8–6.4	Caution	Neonicotinoid (4A)	12h	21
	Alias 4F	imidacloprid^	1–2	0.0313–0.0625	128–64	Caution	Neonicotinoid (4A)	12h	14
	Bidrin 8	dicrotophos^	4.0–8.0	0.25–0.5	32–16	Danger	Organophosphate (1B)	6d	30

List of available insecticides for fleahopper control taken from our Texas A&M AgriLife Cotton Insect Management Guide.

Corn and Sorghum

We have had no better luck reaching anymore of our corn and sorghum fields than our cotton. The grain fields we have been able to reach are all still variable whorl stages with very few pests to speak of. We again noted a very light population of fall armyworms with a few bollworms (corn earworm/ headworm) in the mix feeding on less than 1% of just a few of our non-Bt and sorghum fields. So far, we have not noted any sharp instance or increase is disease pressure, but we should remain vigilant for a economic increase in fungal issues and other leaf and root ailments following this moisture.

Younger corn in central Hale enjoying the rain that will need additional help in weed control soon.

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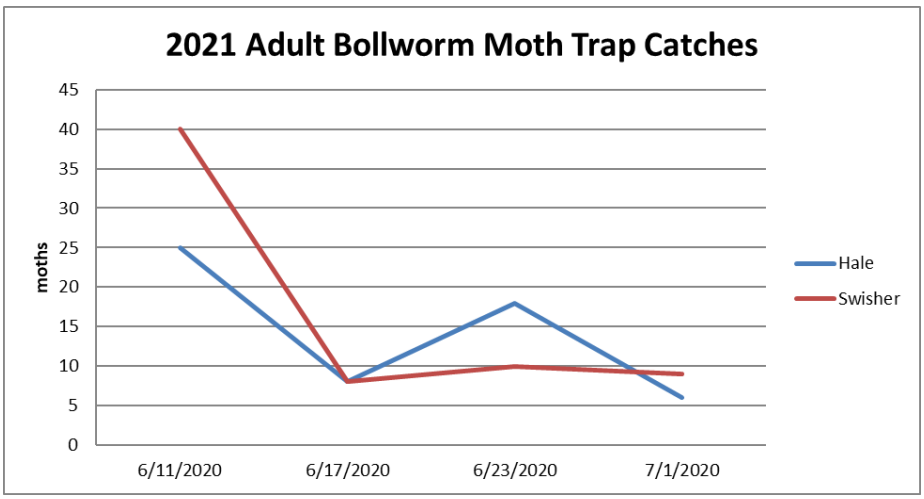

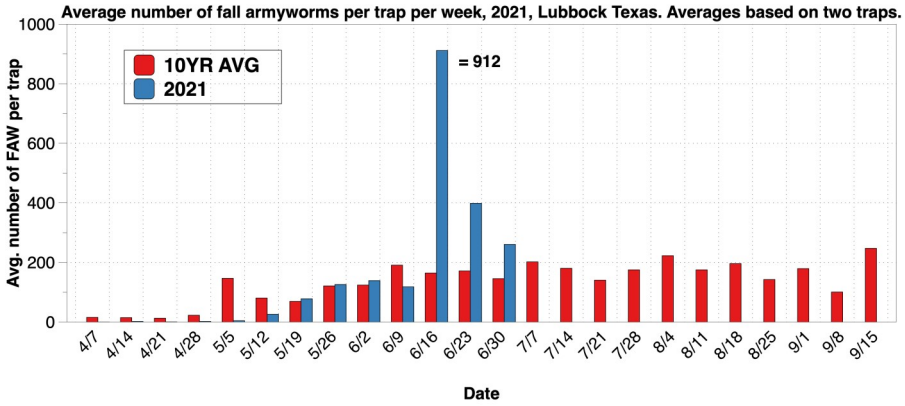

Save the Date!

We are organizing for:

July 27th, 2021

Halfway Experiment Station Field Day!

- New Sorghum Technology Agronomic Variety Trial
- Herbicide Efficacy / Application / Empregnation Trials
- Cotton Seedling Fungicidal Trials
- Bt for thrips? / Instect Pest Updates!

Blayne Reed