

JULY 9, 2021

General Status

It has been a muggy, mosquito filled, wild week. No one has complained about the rain, but the pest and weed pressure is certainly up. The crops of all types are living up the moisture and humid days, but so is everything else. One of our Plains Pest Management growers this morning shared a quote from his grandfather that seems to ring true today, “When it rains in West Texas, it means a lot of work needs to be done.” .”

There certainly a lot of things to address in this year’s crop, but it might not seem so pressing if we did not have a crop to protect. Yet, it remains a long way to the finish line.

Cotton

We were finally able to reach all our scouting program fields that the rains last week held us from reaching. We were not always thrilled with what we found. Our cotton ranged in stage from pinhead square up to 3/4 grown square. Most fields came in around 1/4 to 1/3 grown square. Our oldest fields have a respectable chance of sporting their first blooms by next week, if we can hang onto the squares.

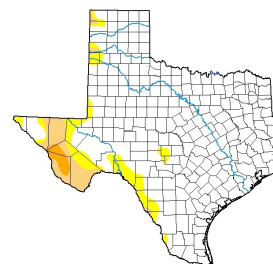
Fleahoppers are the news of the week. So far we have about 40% of our cotton fields reaching economic threshold (ET) for this plant bug. This could end up being one of the biggest pest ‘out breaks’ we have seen in several seasons here in Hale & Swisher County. That speaks to the desperate need to be scouting fields for this pest and the square drop they can cause but also just how light the pests have been recently as we are far from needing to treat every acre. I do not think we will be treating every cotton acre, but I also believe we are a long way from our last ET fleahopper concern at this time.



Southern Hale County cotton this week.

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

July 6, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jul. 8, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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

Author:
Drought Science
National Drought Mitigation Center
UNDA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Cumulative Heat Unit Calculator		
Start Date		End Date
4/26/2021	Corn	9/15/2021
Total Heat Units		1510.20
<hr/>		
Start Date		End Date
5/24/2021	Cotton	11/1/2021
Total Heat Units		654.90
Calculate		

Our fleahopper populations by utilizing the drop cloth method ranged from 1 fleahopper per 0.4 row feet up to 1 fleahopper per 32 row feet. No field was completely without a fleahopper population and most fields were a mix of adults and nymphs with most nymphs being freshly hatched. The ET for fleahoppers is generally around 1 fleahopper per 2-3 row feet. The ET for these, or any, plant bug is not based solely upon their population. There needs to be associated square drop. Our fields ranged from a meager 2% up to a ridiculous 53% where rains and road conditions had kept us away for far too long. Cotton having a few weeks of squaring completed should not have more than 10-15% square drop ideally as some natural drop will occur. Most of our treatable fields with fleahopper issues were running between 20% and 35%, up significantly from last week's 2%-10%.

We also came across the odd Lygus and even rarer stink bug this week, but far and away the largest concern for the area are the fleahoppers. If present, they should be overshadowing the already understood weed issues we are scrambling to maintain control on and the PGR and fertilizer needs we are addressing as needed.

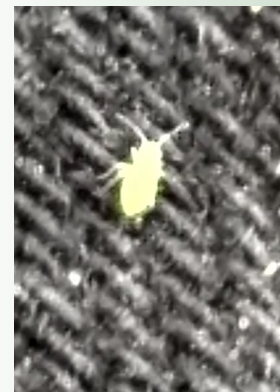
For some quick tips on scouting for plant bugs, here are a few links to our fleahopper and Lygus scouting videos myself and Kerry Siders shot a few year ago. Scouting for fleahoppers and Lygus are very similar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epVctkRkTHs> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfSM8jF_Rqs



Photos from central Swisher, the Hale/Swisher line, and southern Hale all showing serious square drop from fleahopper damage.



Weed flush with residual breaking following heavy rains and weed pressure.



Fleahopper nymph on our dropcloth



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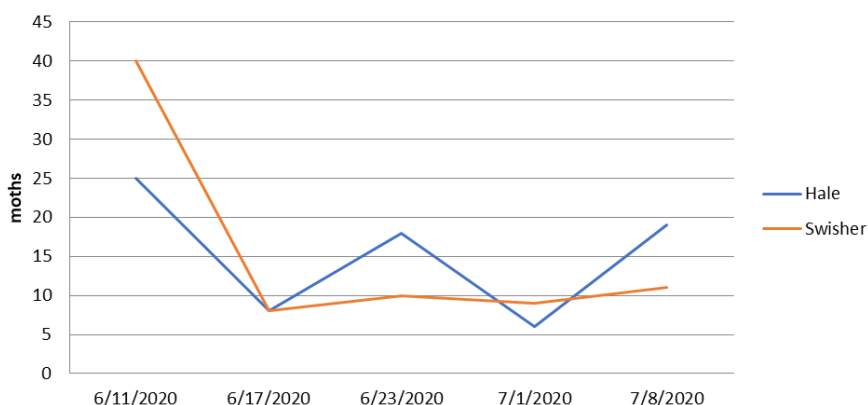


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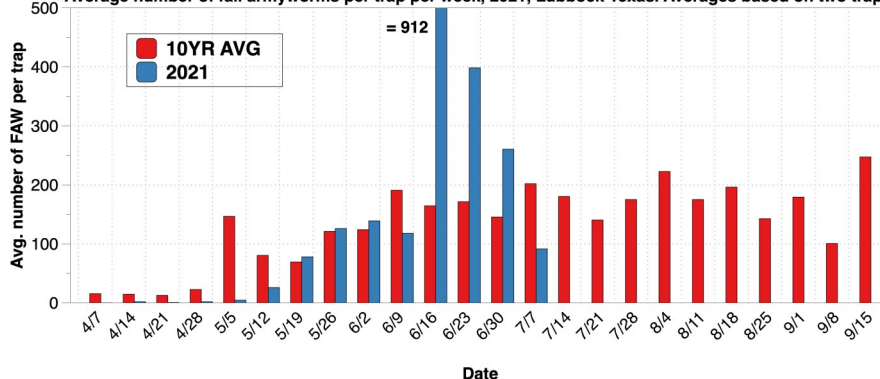
Corn & Sorghum

I believe our last sorghum field has finally been planted. With so much going on and wet fields, it has been an uphill battle. Our oldest corn is starting to tassel and our oldest sorghum is starting flag leaf while the bulk of our grain fields are still in various stages of whorl from V3-V10. We are still not seeing much in the way of pests in either crop at this point while we did not a slight increase in fall armyworm and bollworm (corn earworm and sorghum headworm) whorl feeding. This is still running less than 2% foliage damage at the highest and commonly less than 1% with plenty of fields without damage. Diseases remain light although we did note some in sorghum this week.

2021 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches



Average number of fall armyworms per trap per week, 2021, Lubbock Texas. Averages based on two traps.



Blayne Reed