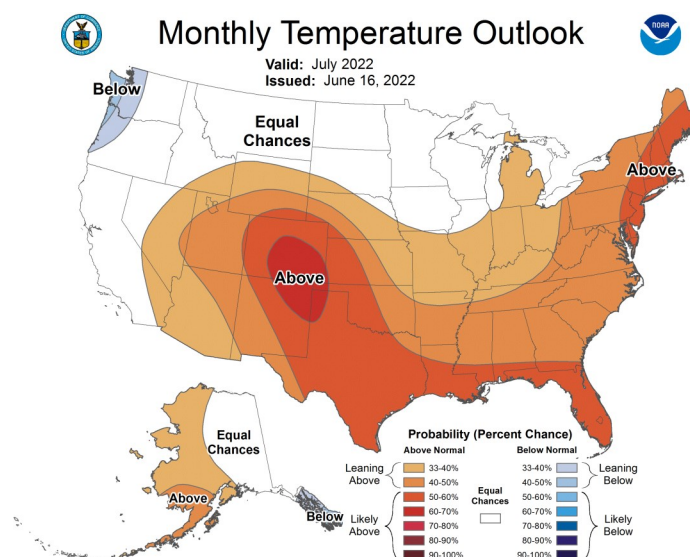
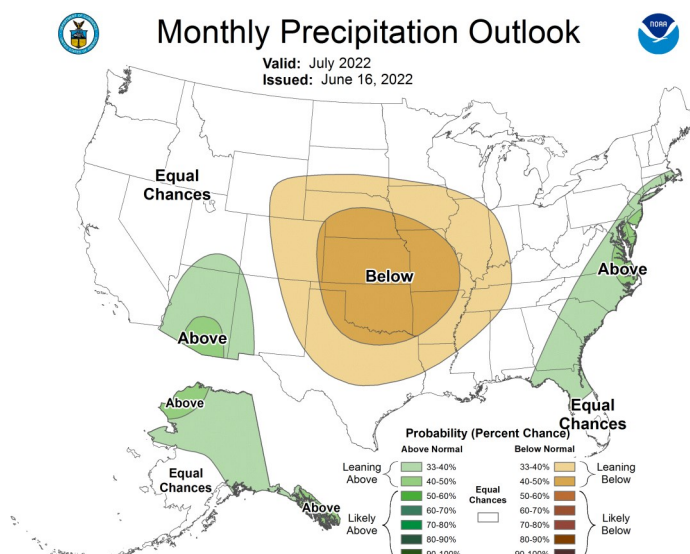


JUNE 17, 2022

General Status

Still very hot and dry with little change from last week on the pest front. Vigilance remains paramount on detecting where pests are an issue and where they are not at this time. On the drought end, it is expanding with dryland and weak water fields dropping rapidly with failures to establish profitable plant populations or seedling desiccation. I am estimating a 60 to 80% failure rate of dryland cotton fields and a 20 to 35% failure rate on irrigated fields today. Many of these fields are only awaiting an insurance adjuster for finality, but they have already been 'given last rights' by our scouting crew when not enough plants per acre were surviving to produce a profitable crop. A few of the early failed fields are being replanted with late sorghum while some may wait for a sorghum type hay crop if rains return but many might remain layout for the summer.



Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management scouting program cotton, failed fields aside, ranged in stage from germinating seed to pinhead square. Most fields came in between 2nd true leaf stage and a roughed up 6th true leaf stage. Thrips remain our largest threat for this stage cotton. The thrips ranged in pressure from no thrips found up to 1.2 thrips per true leaf with most fields holding less than 0.2 thrips per true leaf. We only had a single field over the economic threshold (ET) for thrips (1 thrips per true leaf stage). The rest of the fields had either been treated already or are from the southern areas of Hale County where pressure has not been as high as the areas north of Plainview. One thing unique to this year is that once an economic population of thrips is treated, thrips immediately become very hard to find and do not seem to be returning.



Recovering cotton in southern Swisher post thrips treatment. Note the thrips damaged and ragged early leaves with new growth looking

We have a few fields already moving into squaring stages. We had a couple of fields last week that could have been described as pinhead minus (ph-) or just starting to put on some very hard to find squares. These were joined by a handful of others this week, but I find no field that can be described as larger than a large pinhead square. We noted a few fleahoppers in field near silverleaf nightshade patches, their preferred host plant, but no cotton plant could be described as infested yet and square loss was noted in any field yet. Unless weather continues to rag and damage plants farther, I expect about half of our irrigated cotton acres could be at risk for fleahopper and even Lygus damage while the rest will still be susceptible to thrips damage for at least another week. All our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension pest management and scouting tips can be found in our Managing Cotton Insect Guide here: <https://agrilifecd.n.tamu.edu/texaslocalproduce-2/files/2018/07/Managing-Cotton-Insects-in-Texas.pdf>

We can expect a revised and slightly updated guide very soon, but here are our current fleahopper and Lygus treatment guidelines.

Table 4. Cotton fleahopper action thresholds

| Region | Fleahoppers | Cotton growth stage | |
|---|--|---|------------|
| Blacklands | 10–15 per 100 terminals (terminal inspection) | During squaring | |
| Coastal Bend Winter Garden Lower Rio Grande Valley | 15–25 per 100 terminals (terminal sampling) In development: 20–40 adults and nymphs per 100 plants (beat bucket sampling) | | |
| Panhandle South Plains Permian Basin Rolling Plains Trans Pecos | 25–30 per 100 terminals (terminal inspection) | Week of squaring | Square set |
| | | 1st week | < 90% |
| | | 2nd week | < 85% |
| | | 3rd week | < 75% |
| | | After 1st bloom, treatment is rarely justified. | |

Table 8. Lygus action threshold

| Cotton stage | Sampling method | |
|---|--|--|
| | Drop cloth | Sweep net |
| 1st two weeks of squaring* | 1–2 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set | 8 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set |
| 3rd week of squaring to 1st bloom | 2–3 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set | 15 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set |
| After peak bloom | 4–6 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable fruit set the first 4–5 weeks | 15–20 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable fruit set the first 4–5 weeks |
| Sweep net: Standard 15-inch net, sample 1 row at a time, taking 15–25 sweeps. Recommended before peak bloom. | | |
| Drop cloth: Black recommended, 3-foot sampling area, sample 2 rows. Recommended after peak bloom. Stop sampling and treating when NAWF = 5 + 350 DD60's. | | |
| *In West Texas, insecticide applications for lygus are rarely needed in prebloom cotton as lygus generally stay in roadside weeds and vegetation until cotton begins flowering. | | |

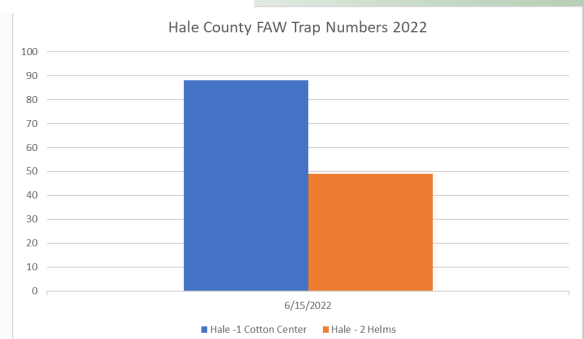
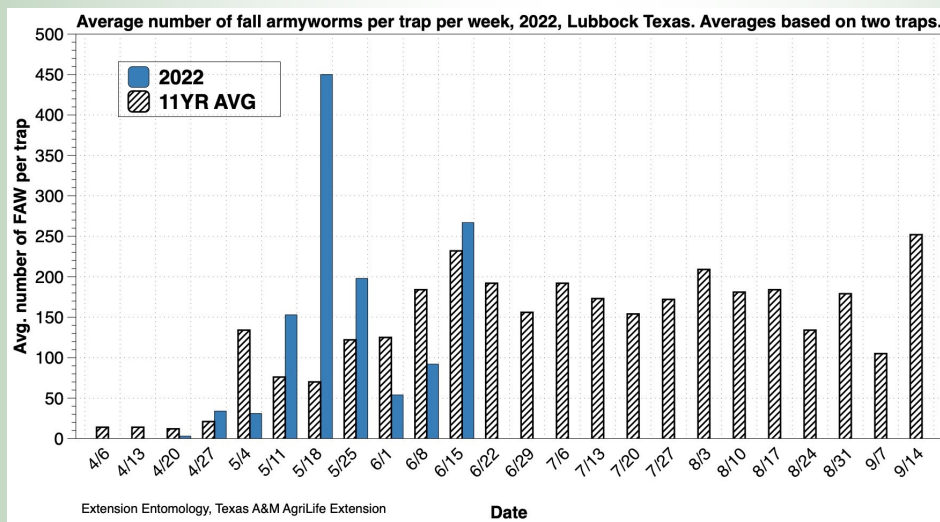
Corn & Sorghum



Worn in southwestern Hale this week in the heat.

Our only program corn field came in this week at V7 stage, again with no pests or diseases of note. Surviving weeds and heat stress are our largest concerns at the moment. Our sorghum acres are expanding with a handful of hailed out or otherwise failed cotton acres being shifted to 2nd planting sorghum. These fields range from emergence up to our intended early sorghum at V8. We will be seeing if these fields establish this next week, but our established sorghum also has no pests of note. We have received an alert from Dr. Pat Porter about fall armyworm flights from his Lubbock traps being extremely high. We have started running a few Hale County FAW traps also. While we have no historical trap data, our first week of trapping concurs with Dr. Porter's concern with high numbers recorded this week across the southern part of the county with more expected in the area soon. We should be watching sorghum and non-Bt corn for these pests to lay eggs and begin whorl feeding soon. While this damage is rarely, if ever, economic, fall armyworm population could become large enough to move beyond the whorl and skeletonize sorghum or corn.

While it has been a very long time since this has been documented here on the High Plains, it remains a threat we need to be watchful of.





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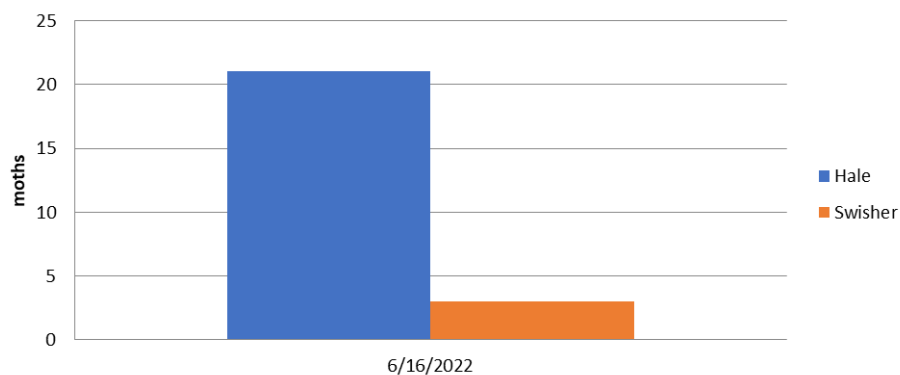


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Regardless of crop, surviving weeds are a major concern for most fields this week. Many of these weeds are likely to survive.

2022 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches Week of June 16



Blayne Reed