

JUNE 2, 2023

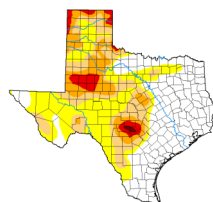
General Status

After being so dry for so long, we are finally getting a long drink. Unfortunately we can never schedule these drinks, nor can we request severity or volume. If we could, I doubt we would schedule this volume during our short and critical planting season. Yet I have not heard any real complaints about the field situations or not even being able to get to the field. But, I am starting to hear some deep sighs as fields go day by day too wet to work or plant. At least with moisture, we have a much better chance of profitably raising a good crop of something. With the reduction in irrigation capacity we have experienced lately, we had very limited chances of raising profitable crops as a region without helpful rainfall. We do have a sizable amount of acres not yet planted. Such is life in West Texas, but this pattern is not unique, and we have experienced it before. Here are the historical annual rainfall records for Amarillo from 1921-1960. Note the pattern following the ‘dust bowl’ and the serious droughts of the 1950’s. Of special note 1941 and 1960, high rainfall years meshed around ‘wet’ years coming out of drought periods. Much like the

Yearly Precipitation Totals 1921-1960

1921.....25.24	1941.....37.21
1922.....19.85	1942.....21.62
1923.....39.75	1943.....18.38
1924.....17.90	1944.....23.60
1925.....23.53	1945.....17.19
1926.....26.25	1946.....20.80
1927.....15.42	1947.....15.48
1928.....32.34	1948.....24.38
1929.....18.87	1949.....25.15
1930.....17.58	1950.....21.18
1931.....18.35	1951.....25.29
1932.....21.14	1952.....12.15
1933.....12.22	1953.....13.05
1934.....13.33	1954.....13.89
1935.....15.49	1955.....13.71
1936.....19.72	1956.....9.94
1937.....17.10	1957.....21.24
1938.....19.10	1958.....23.29
1939.....21.01	1959.....22.81
1940.....13.62	1960.....36.67

producers, our PPM scouting program has had limited opportunity to be in the field this week. I estimate that we have only seen about 25% of our expected acres yet, and we focused on growers that felt they needed help determining if they had an economically viable cotton fields, or if replants were needed. We have noted good fields and marginal



fields, but none had been determined as failed yet, but my impression is we only have about 60-70% of our cotton planted so far with more weather predicted this next week.

Tornado Watch

This Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night
100%	70% → 20%	20%	70%	70%	60%	60%	
Severe Thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorms then Isolated T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	T-storms Likely	T-storms Likely	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms
High: 77 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 56 °F

Cotton

What cotton we have been able to scout this week ranged in stage from cotyledon to 2nd true leaf stage with a notable amount of crop damage resulting in some regrowth from alternate growing points. While we still have intended cotton acre's seed still in the barn, we are running into insurance cut-off plant dates for both counties, with Swisher having already passed, and more rain in the forecast. We are not clear just what will be planted in those acres at this time. While we have not found any failed fields with per acre plant populations ranging from 28,431 up to 41,250, I am sure some are out there. All our PPM fields, if they experienced hail, it was light.



Good looking stand in northern Swisher, 6/2/2023.

For irrigated cotton, a population of 31,000 should be needed to make higher yields of 1,500 lint pounds per acre and 27,000 for 1,000 to 1,200 lint pounds.

To calculate plants per acre, I suggest measuring 1/1000 of an acre down the row, counting the surviving plants and multiplying by 1000. At this early stage, even a beaten and regrowing plant should be more profitable than a late replant option. A plant may be considered living if any growing point is actively setting new growth at least 3 days following the damaging event, be it hail, wind, or rain. Here is a handy list of 1/1000 of an acre distance by all of the utilized row spacings I am aware of in our two counties:

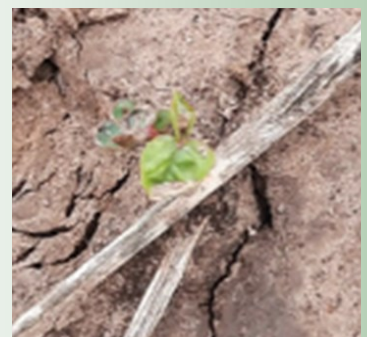
40-inch row spacing	13' 5.09"
38-inch row spacing	13' 8.95"
36-inch row spacing	14' 6.24"
32-inch row spacing	16' 4.02"
30-inch row spacing	17' 5.09"

Thrips numbers have been remarkably high, especially near wheat ground. This was predicted but is still surprising considering how many alternate hosts are now available to the thrips population in general. Our Texas established economic threshold for



Swisher plant with multiple issues that should be OK.

thrips is around 1 thrips per true leaf stage. Our counts ranged from no thrips found (usually on newly emerged seedlings) up to 3.2 thrips per true leaf stage. Most fields were averaging around threshold at 1 thrips per true leaf stage if leaves were present. We noted a good portion of surviving seedlings having lost cotyledons and/or true leaves and regrowing from the terminal or alternative growing point. While these plants have plenty of time to make up for the damage setbacks, I suggest being a touch more aggressive with thrips if fields are in this situation. Any thrips damage could delay the plant's recovery more for these plants than otherwise healthier plants.



Weathered Hale seedling that may need extra thrips protection.



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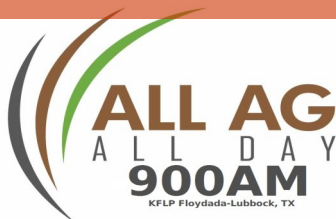
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Corn and Sorghum

We have not been able to scout any of our planted PPM corn or sorghum at this time and I have no reports of serious pests or issues this week other than some possibly shrinking fields due to flooding and drowning. I have noted hail damaged grain fields that are recovering quite well. It is truly very hard to hail out early-stage corn and sorghum with their growing points still below ground. I estimate our oldest corn and sorghum should be about V3-5 stage. I expect quite a few more sorghum and possibly even more corn acres to be planted given the current situation. As many grain and corn pests often increase in severity over the summer, later planted fields might be subject to higher-than-normal pest pressures. My best recommendation might be to prepare and plant varieties with the best trait or resistance available. I suggest to consulting our Handy Bt Trait Table, https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2021/02/BtTraitTable_Feb_2021B.pdf, for an easy to understand trait description by name (organized by our own Dr. Pat Porter, Lubbock) and reviewing our Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Sorghum / Corn guides along with consulting with sorghum companies for sorghum aphid or herbicide resistance desires.

We will be setting our bollworm and other moth traps for both counties this next week.

Blayne Reed