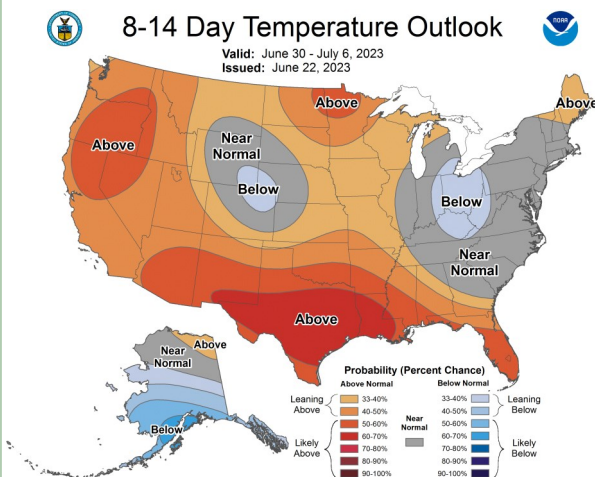
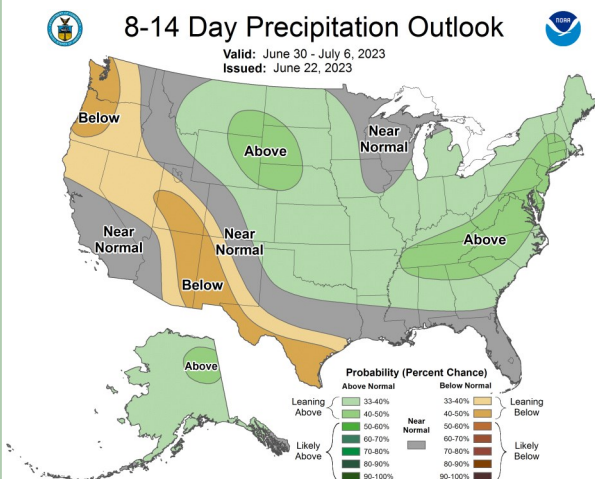


JUNE 23, 2023

General Status

With June rushing by, our summer crop planting is finally just about wrapping up. Fields of multiple crops are in every early stage possible, and sleep is hard to come by as producers rush to get all fields planted while managing established fields at the same time. With high temperatures this past week, much of the early season crop developmental delays, brought on by cool, wet and weathered conditions and the inevitable seedling disease and physical damage, with drift damage included, ragged looking crops are sluffing it off and making quick progress. Later planted fields are behind but developing quickly. Even our earlier planted fields are behind what most would call an average season and all fields have hopes of a late fall. Unbelievable as it seems, some fields, especially the latest planted dryland fields, are looking for the next rain so they can receive enough moisture in the seedbed to germinate while established fields are rooting down in the heat. Weeds have been a consistent threat while thrips in cotton seems to be winding down with no new pest arising this week.



Images of our youngest and oldest PPM sorghum this week.

Cotton

Our youngest PPM scouting program cotton is still emerging while our oldest is sporting pinhead squares. This week more than half our earlier planted fields were found with tiny, hard to spot pinheads. No field was found to have any notable square loss



NE Hale field now at sporting squares and at risk for fleahopper damage.

yet, but for these fields we are in full fleahopper scouting mode, leaving thrips behind as these fields should be past thrips economic damage and very susceptible to plant bugs. We did note some additional black fleahoppers in our fields, but no associated damage as these individuals seemed to be passing through on their way to more desirable hosts around field margins. No Lygus were found in our fields this week. For reference or refresher in plant bug scouting please see our Cotton Fleahopper extra handout publication: http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/06/Cotton-fleahopper_ENTO073.pdf and our Lygus in cotton management section: <https://cottonbugs.tamu.edu/fruit-feeding-pests/lygus-bugs/>. I am including snapshots from those publications that highlight the seemingly complex economic thresholds for these pests.

Table 1. Cotton Fleahopper Action Thresholds

Region	Fleahoppers	Cotton growth stage	
Blacklands	10–15 per 100 terminals	During the first 3 weeks of squaring	
Coastal Bend Winter Garden Lower Rio Grande Valley	15–25 per 100 terminals		
Panhandle South Plains Permian Basin Rolling Plains Trans Pecos	25–30 per 100 terminals with:	Week of squaring	Square set
		1st week	< 90%
		2nd week	< 85%
		3rd week	< 75%
		After 1st bloom, treatment is rarely justified.	

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 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set	15 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set
After peak bloom	4 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks	15- 20 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable fruit set 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 is recommended; 3-ft sampling area, sample 2-rows. Recommended after peak bloom.
Cease sampling and treating when NAWF = 5+ 350 DD60's.

The remaining balance of our fields remain at risk for thrips and we continue scouting for this pest here. However, all fields near wheat have been treated for past pressure and the population has remained low following treatment. Our highest thrips field came in at 0.246 thrips per true leaf stage. We are conducting multiple thrips studies currently and have some untreated check plots in the high thrips pressure areas. These small plots have also experienced a reduction in population recently, but remain over ET with one trial still holding 1.71 thrips per true leaf at the 4th true leaf stage. ET for thrips remains at 1 thrips per true leaf stage.



Thrips on cotton damage range visual aid.

Sorghum and Corn

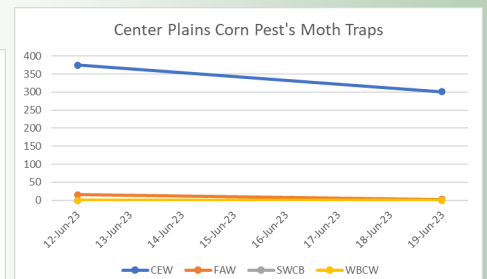
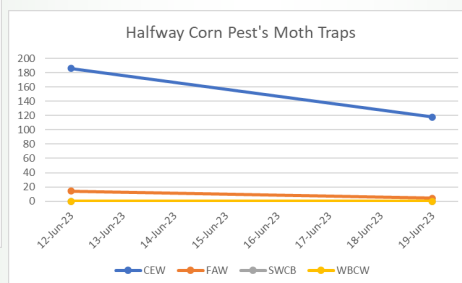
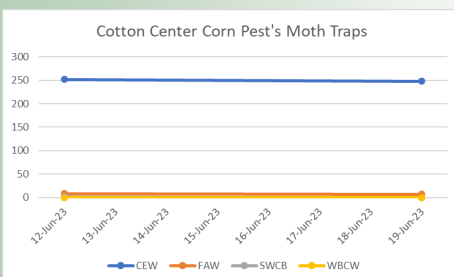
We are still not seeing any pests of note in our corn or sorghum. We did note a few small Banks grass mite colonies in southwestern Hale but these were just establishing and far from economic with decent beneficial numbers. In sorghum we noted a few corn leaf aphids, a 'pest' we actually like to see establishing because they feed beneficials without causing any economic issues in 99.9% of sorghum types. For our late planted fields, wireworms might be our largest need to scout. There is certainly a wireworm pest population that could threaten seedlings, and we remain vigilant in scouting, but have not noted any major economic issues in our PPM fields but have taken ample preventative precautions to better ensure emergence. Our fields ranged from seed to V7-8 this week.



Weeds in all crops remain our largest concern so far.

PPM 2023 Moth Trapping

We are currently running two types of moth trapping. One is our traditional bollworm (corn earworm) traps we run every year. These are stationed one per county in relatively fix locations making use of large wire traps. The nearby vegetation varies and remain a good check on the overall potential of bollworm pressure to cotton and sorghum. The other is sponsored by the Texas Corn Producers and targets 4 species of Lepidopteran corn pests, corn earworm, southwestern corn borer, fall armyworms, and western bean cutworms. These are made with small plastic traps and are placed by production corn in our counties wherever they might be and monitor moths active near corn and might be an indicator of corn pests in that area but not for any other crop. Both are useful but can offer vastly differing results. For example, even a light population of bollworms will focus intensely on corn as its primary preferred host plant. If there are a few fields, all moths will move on it first and thus is a good indicator of worm pressure on corn but not for any other area crops. With this in mind, we will be sharing information from all our trapping this year for best use in the most situations. As of today, our bollworm pressure is light but heavily focused on corn at this time while all other corn moth pest populations remain light.





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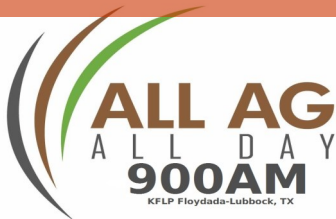
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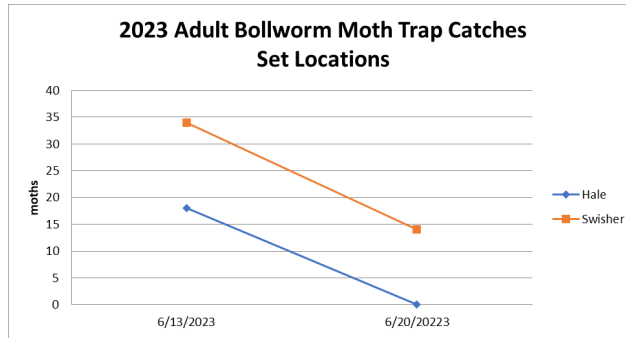
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The overall population of bollworms for the region is light but focused on the few corn fields.



Mozena obtusa

Mozena obtusa has returned again this year. This is the 'stink bug' that exploded in population locally a few years ago. Known to almost exclusively feed upon mesquite they flooded into our area during the spring, hungry and looking for host plants. Here on the high plains they found very few mesquite. These insects caused quite a stir landing on seedling cotton and black-eyed pea production that year as well as multiple horticultural plants. We expanded the list of plants the insect was spotted on, but none other than legumes ever shown much more than superficial damage. Last year the pest returned in some numbers again. Kerry Siders and Dr. Suhas Vyavhare conducted an efficacy study in cotton near Levelland that year. While the insect proved fairly easy to control, it was not clearly determined they were causing anything but cosmetic damage to cotton. This year, they are back in some numbers again. We should be scouting any seedling legume crop for this insect right now. They do tend to cluster on host plants they prefer as my photo from 2013 of them on mesquite shows. There should also be several horticultural plants at risk, as the June 22nd garden photo from Kress shows.



Mozena obtusa in 2013 (above) and garden in 2023



Blayne Reed

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