

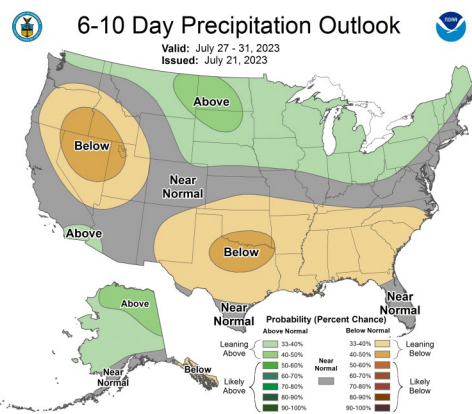
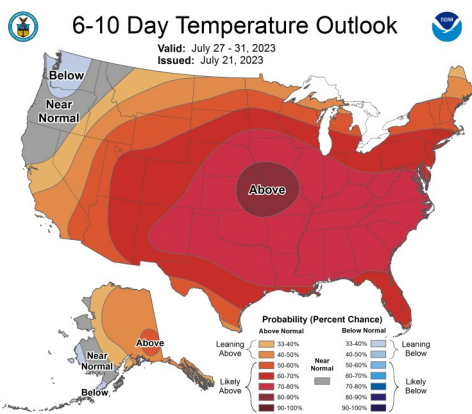
JULY 21, 2023



Photos of the stages of our oldest fields this week, bloom, silk, and flag.

General Status

As we move into late July, our most mature Plains Pest Management fields are just now coming into peak water use and reproductive modes, bloom for cotton, pollination for corn, and flag/boot for sorghum. This is 'late' but not outside of a good crop window for an average freeze date. These most mature fields do not make up the bulk of our acres, and there are plenty of very late fields, but the majority of our fields are not too far behind and should be developing rapidly enough barring an early freeze. In the high heat, and high for the area, humidity, there remains no shortage of field work to be done. Some from pest pressure, some from weed pressure, and just some from general crop needs, be it water, fertilizer, PGR, or general field and farm maintenance, everyone has kept their nose to a hard grindstone trying to get it all done. From all indications, next week looks to be the same but with new developments and issues to hurdle.



Cotton

This week our PPM scouting program cotton ranged in stage from the very hopeful 2nd true leaf stage field through first bloom with the bulk of our fields coming in between 2/3 and 3/4 grown square stage. The handful of fields reaching bloom this week were sporting those blooms somewhere between 7 and the 11 nodes above white flower (NAWF). The higher node fields are above an average starting point bloom year and likely indicative of the early season and rainfall these fields have had but not in a worrisome range.



A S Swisher field recovering from fleahoppers this week. Should be blooming soon.

Fruit drop remained linked to plant bug pressure this week with the vast minority of fields not reaching threshold levels remaining below 10% drop (90% retention) or better. Of the fields treated for fleahoppers last week, fruit retention is recovering with a handful of fields still reaching treatable levels this week. Our full spectrum of drop ranged from 0.53% up to 38.6% with most treated fields recovering to a 15% to 28% level. Our

actual fleahopper populations ranged from none found (rare even behind good treatments this year) up to the 70% terminal infested range. I estimate that as of today, we have had to treat around 90% of our program cotton acres. While our acres of cotton are reduced this year, this is well above the average 15-30% we typically treat with populations easily double what we typically find in Hale and Swisher fields. Even in our



successfully treated fields we are steadily finding freshly hatched fleahopper nymphs, already looking sickly from the treatment's residual. It should also be noted that in fields where the grower opted for a cheaper



Lygus & Fleahopper adults photo:Porter.

product with less residual and was harsher on the beneficials than what was recommended, retreatment was often needed with a few cotton aphids starting to show. We are still finding some Lygus in the mix but primarily in our untreated fields this week. Once blooms can consistently be found in fields, fleahoppers should not be a problem species as they will be more attracted to the blooms to harmlessly feed on the easier accessible pollen. Lygus will remain a concern until older bolls reach 350 heat unit accumulation.



Old fleahopper caused fruit drop this week in N Swisher.

In about every other field we are seeing populations of stink bugs of mixed species. We are not noting any damage from these pests yet, but should be watchful on developing bolls soon. In our non-Bt fields, which we have a higher-than-average number of in our program this year, we are finding cabbage loopers, true armyworms, and a few cotton square borers (gray hairstreak skipper). All of these Lepidopteran pests are well below threshold with the highest looper and true armyworm populations coming in around 1,802 worms per acre and no fruit damage with ET being about 50,000 per acre or 6% fruit damage. Cotton square borer damage can be considered equal to bollworm damage which is 2,000 to 8,000 for cotton at this stage or a consistent 6% harvestable fruit damage. Our highest borer population came in at 852 worms per acre and at 1.2% fruit damage.



Cabbage Looper from S Swisher this week.

Corn and Sorghum

Things again remain quieter in our grain crops this week. We still have no sightings of the sorghum aphid (formerly known as the sugarcane aphid) in our program sorghum yet although there are some reports and indications about that we could see them soon. We are still monitoring some borderline yellow sugarcane aphids.

This population increased slightly from last week in our main field of concern and was then found in several more fields this week but still well below ET.

If this pest is to become a problem, hopefully it will be while the sorghum aphid is in play so as to keep any possible aphid treatments to just one.



Yellow sugarcane aphid damage in NW Hale this week.



It was hard to spot typical corn pests this week populations are so low

All other pests in both corn and sorghum seemed to either lose ground or remain unchanged from last week.

Spidermites and headworm feeding can be found in corn and sorghum but well below ET and barely notable in most fields. Diseases did become slightly more noticeable in a few older corn fields with some common rust, at a very light level, turning up in a few of our scouting data sets.



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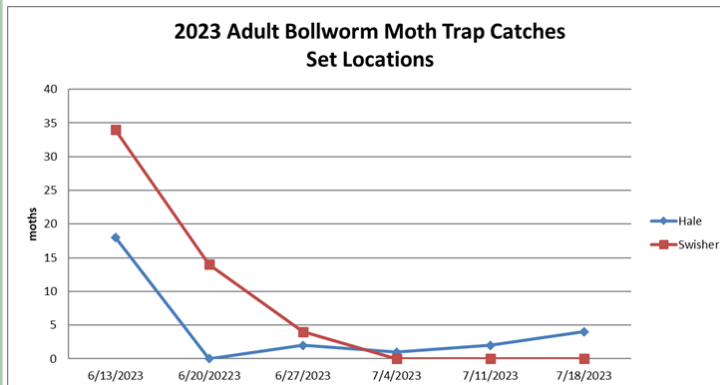
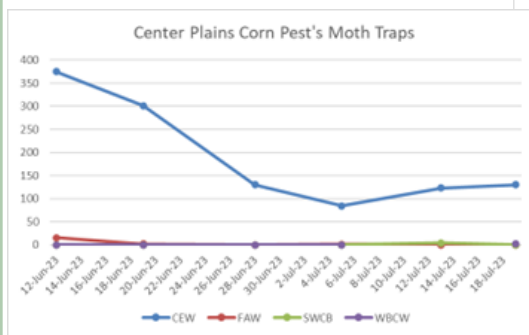
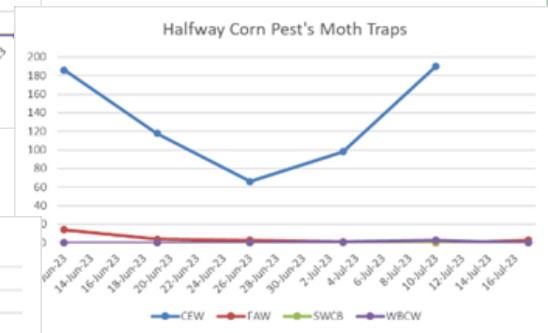
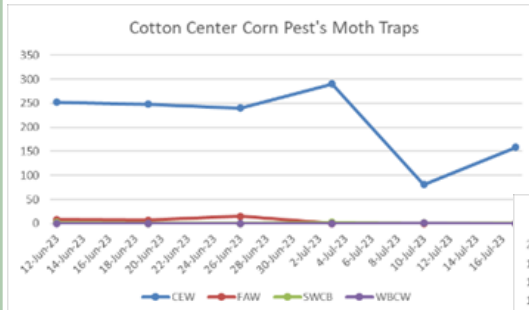
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Moth Traps

Our Texas Corn Producers corn pests moth traps and our standard bollworm moth traps continue to follow the same patterns. Quite a bit of bollworm/corn earworm interest in corn, but very few out and about the rest of the acres while the other corn pest species remain very low. I again would like to note the western bean cutworm numbers. It is news worthy when any are found in Hale & Swisher counties. Despite some trap damage issues in some locations two weeks in a row, we did find a few in the Swisher location near Center Plains this week. This is 3 weeks in a row we have found some of these moths somewhere. They are looking for silking corn to lay eggs in right now. I remain confident that we need to instigate a zero tolerance policy for this pest.



Blayne Reed

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