

JULY 7, 2023

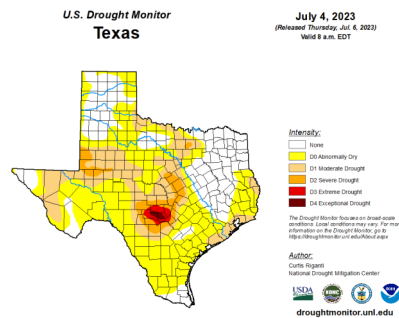
General Status

Another week has blown past us and our generally late fields. Progress is being made both in crop development and management. Rain, at least some light rain that did not seem to come with much damage, has continued for most of the acres and remains in the short-term forecast this weekend. Still, soil profiles do not seem to be as full as we would have expected or hoped. Cotton is rooting down, as it needs to, but many of our older grain fields have peak water use just around the corner while our later fields already needed the recent rains or irrigation to successfully



Pests and predators were showing in our fields at higher rates this week. Fleahoppers (top), Nabid (bottom)

establish. Insects and weeds have taken advantage of the moisture fully. As the environment around us falls behind the green growth a bit at a time, the insect populations steadily move into our crop acres as more reliable host areas, concentrating populations. We will need to be on the lookout (aren't we always) for multiple pests in multiple crops at multiple stages over the next few weeks. I do not expect widespread issues, but I do expect select fields to have economic issues sneak up on them if we are not careful.



Extended Forecast for Plainview TX

This Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
30%	50%		20%					
Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Hot
High: 95 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 90 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 93 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 98 °F

Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management Cotton had no economic issues this week but did experience a sharp increase in pest and beneficial numbers. Our fields ranged in stage from emerging through 1/3 grown square stage with most fields still falling between matchhead and pinhead square stage with a handful reaching 1/4 grown square stage.

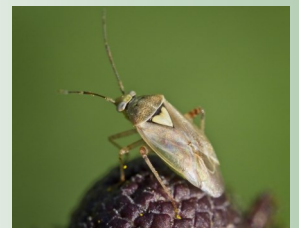
Fleahoppers were our primary pest of note this week with ample Lygus popping up to be noticed. Almost all the fleahoppers we found this week were adults, hinting that they had not been in the fields long. Our highest fleahopper populations were found in fields old enough to be sampled via drop cloth in conjunction with plant inspections. For our program, using this combination vastly increases the number of plants we can sample per time spent in the field and ensures we are sampling the minimum number of terminals for each field to make an informed decision. Our highest field came in at 1 fleahopper per 3.38 row feet, which equates to about 15 terminals per 100 infested (for our field's PPA) on our research proven 25-30 per 100 terminals infested thresh-



Swisher County fleahopper this week.

old, square set depending. The square drop for this field came in at 13.38%. When we compare that to our research proven threshold from our Managing Cotton Insects in Texas Guide (<https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2018/03/ENTO075.pdf>), we see we are below threshold but any increase in fleahopper population soon could justify treatment. While this was our highest fleahopper field, about 20% of our fields fell in the 8-12 terminals per 100 infested range with square drop hovering around 5%. While this is not major immediate concern, if

the population increases again and square drop increases this week, many of these fields will require treatment. If Lygus are in the mix damaging the field, the damage is cumulative for both fleahoppers and Lygus. Lygus have their own research proven threshold, based on number per row foot but also in conjunction with fruit set. It is possible for both pests to technically be below their respective thresholds, but jointly causing enough damage that treatment would be required. In fact, this is relatively common



Lygus adult.

for some number of our fields just about every year. Our highest Lygus populations came in at 1 Lygus per 9 row feet with 8% fruit drop with threshold being 1 Lygus per 2.5-3 row feet with associated square or boll loss.

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.	

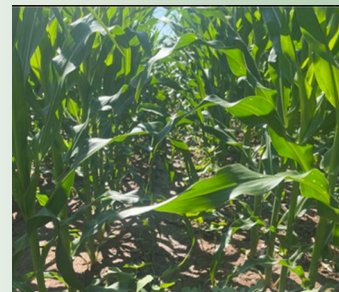
Sorghum & Corn

Our youngest grain crop should be emerging now, but I have been just as confident in this statement the last two weeks as I am now, yet a few more keep going in as quick as fields can be made ready, pushing the line and gambling to take advantage of the moisture. Our oldest corn is in VX and nearing tassel while our oldest sorghum is at V11. Most of our later sorghum fields are somewhere between V3 and V5. We had a notable uptick in insect activity in both these grain crops this week, but nothing near economic levels. Mites were easier to find but never rated above a 1 on



SW Swisher sorghum this week.

our 0-10 mite damage rating scale with 3.5-4 being threshold. Some whorl feeding was again noted in non-Bt fields, but remained very, very far below 1% foliage loss with 25-



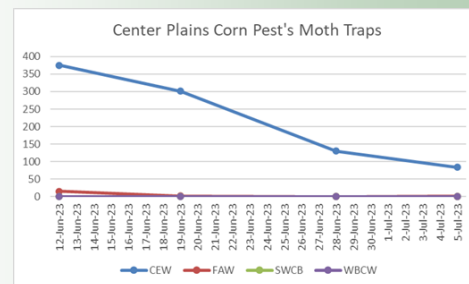
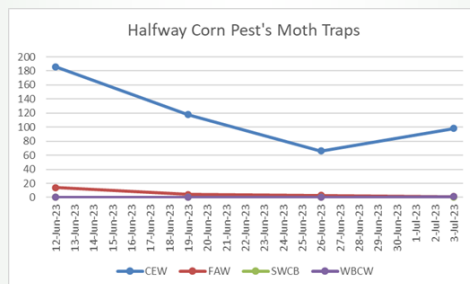
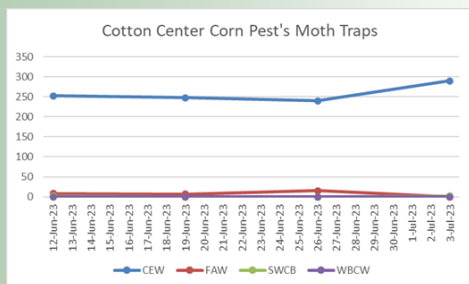
SW Hale Corn this week.

30% being considered an economic issue. The yellow sugarcane aphid damage did not notably increase this week and corn leaf aphids were noted, offering a food source for predators

to reliably build on. Most beneficial species increased in fields this week also. Diseases remain fairly light considering the moisture situation but some herbicide drift was noted.

Moth Traps

Our Texas Corn Producers corn pest moth traps this week are still showing that corn earworms (bollworms) are still very attracted to our whorl corn this week but all other pest species are fairly low. However, we did capture a western bean cutworm moth this week at Halfway. This is pretty big news for this area. Any tasseling corn or fields near tassel should be scouted intensely for this pest. The damage the larva can inflict will be extreme if they establish. The western bean cutworm will start feeding on tassels, where Bt is not expressed well, and then move down the plant to older, drying ears to feed (also when Bt is not expressed well) on the mid portion of the ear inflicting major damage and leaving wounds for disease and fungal issues to start in these ears. If this pest continues to infest this area and reaches economic levels, it will be serious. At this time, each moth of this species matters.





AgriLife Extension Service / Texas Pest Management Association

225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072
Tel: 806.291.5267
Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail: Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

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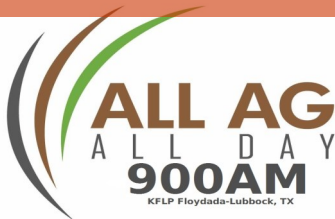
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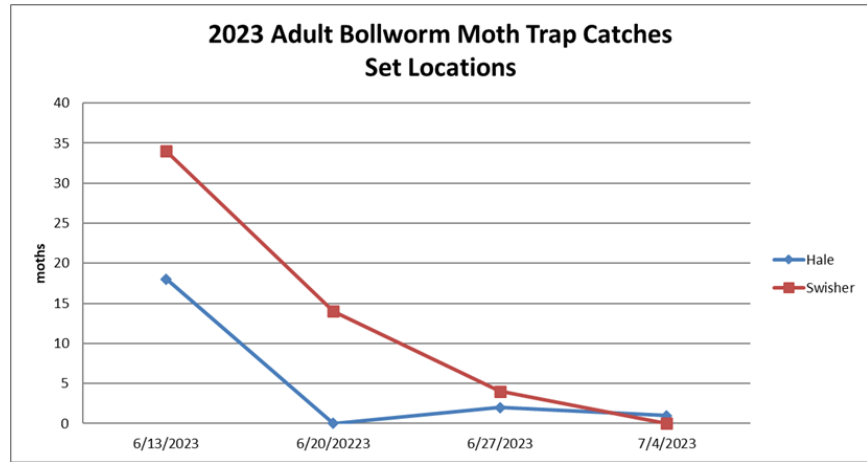
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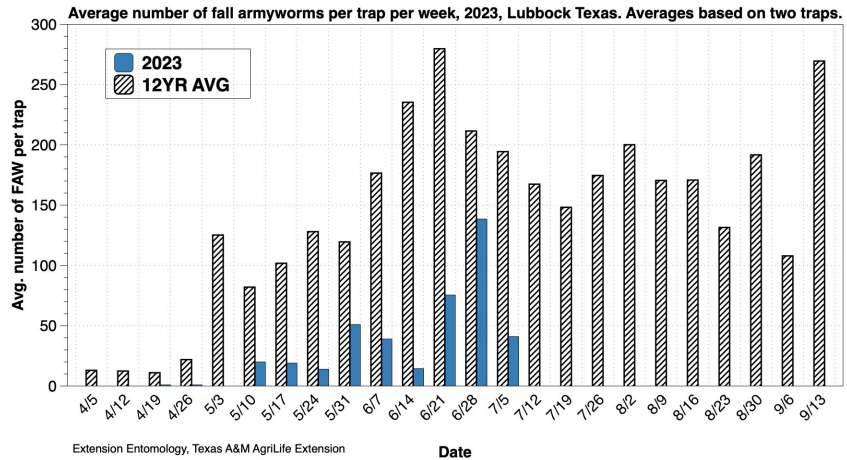
Our standard bollworm traps, placed in set locations year after year and not near corn

this year, are showing a very light bollworm population in the area.



Dr. Pat Porter's fall armyworm moth traps are also showing a very light population of

moths.



Blayne Reed

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