

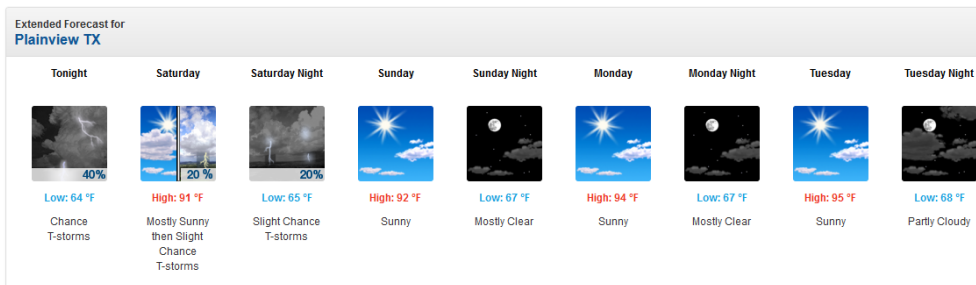
JUNE 14, 2024

General Status

During the last weekend and early in the week, just about every acre received some beneficial rainfall. The amount varied mostly between 1 to 3-inches with some exceptions either way. To my knowledge, we lost no acres to hail or harsh weather in Hale or Swisher, which seems hard for me to believe. Some high winds did come, and some 'sand' did blow, but the damage seems minimal thanks to multiple prayers, a flurry of field activity, and good soil conservation practices. While the moisture is far from a drought buster, our fields are in much better shape on this side of the rainfall. Pests are still on the prowl and weeds are doing what they do best. The hurried focus of most of our PPM producers is on weed control, trying to take down some very actively growing escapes and trying to get another layer of residual out while taking advantage of some higher humidity and intermingling a few early season insecticidal sprays when and where needed.



Area cotton and corn growing well after rainfall and early season field care.



Cotton

Our PPM program cotton ranges in stage from cotyledon leaf through pin-head square stage with most fields falling in around 3-4th true leaf stage. Thrips remain the pest topic this week with fields ranging from 0.14 to 1.86 thrips per true leaf stage. Following the rainfall, and or treatment(s) the thrips population seems to be settling. The aggressive fog of thrips pouring from wheat looking for green plants to infest is waning with area pastures, roadsides, and other crops greening up, thrips have multiple hosts to choose from while they have just about emptied the wheat fields. This week our threshold populations were on a field-by-field basis rather than so widespread with fields adjacent to wheat being the main problem areas. A few of the youngest fields did escape treatment but most were treated or are about to be. To determine if any field requires treatment, the threshold remains 1 thrips per true leaf stage. With so many fields nearing squaring stages soon, thrips will likely be behind most fields by late next week.



SW Hale cotton showing a mixed level of thrips damage post treatment this week.

Fleahoppers and Lygus will be our next focus pest. We are yet to find either of these in our fields yet, but a few fields are already at risk with pinhead squares being found. So far, we have no plant bug related fruit loss found.



Fleahopper adult: photo by Dr. Pat Porter

Dr. David Kerns has been working on a revised fleahopper threshold that actually reduces the action threshold from 25-30 infested terminals down significantly, crop market price and cost of control depending. In some dryland and extremely light irrigated situations, this could drop as low as 6% infested but seems to hover around the 10-15% level

in most situations. This revised threshold has not been tested on the High Plains as of yet and does not take square drop into consideration. Until the High Plains IPM Team can evaluate the revised threshold here on the high ground of Texas, it is suggested that we still consider fruit loss in our decision making for fleahopper treatments but a lower terminal infestation rate could be advisable if control costs are low, chosen labeled product depending.



SE Swisher field with 3-4 pinhead squares already on it this week.



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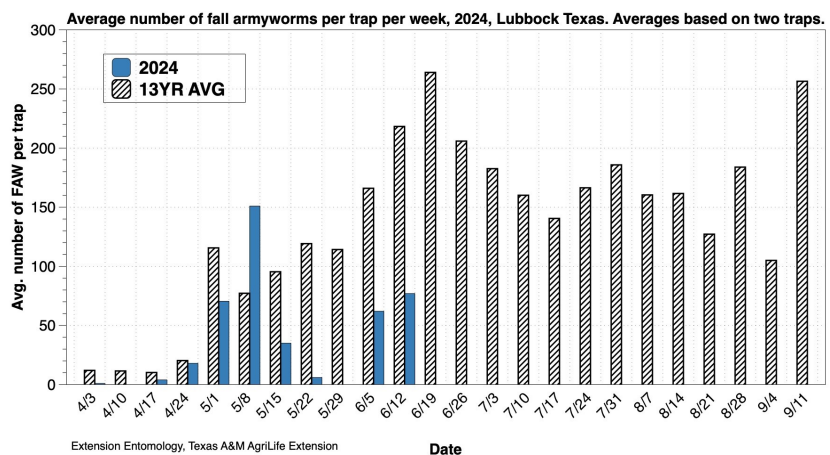
Corn and Sorghum

Our corn and sorghum fields are progressing nicely, with weeds being the serious issue of note. I did find a single Banks grass mite on the edge of a corn field next to wheat, a small bit of fall

armyworm feeding on a single whorl and noted a few grasshoppers nibbling on lower leaves near pasture so there are issues to watch for. These potential issues that I found were so slight they were hardly worth mentioning this week. Our fields ranged in stage from seed in the bag through V7, although I have noted some area corn

well ahead of our sparse fields. We collected our first week of moth trapping. We had a few corn earworms and some fall armyworm moths but so far the populations are light.

		13-Jun-24
	CEW	53
H1 - Halfway	FAW	74
	SWCB	2
	WBCW	0
		13-Jun-24
	CEW	57
H2 - Finney	FAW	2
	SWCB	1
	WBCW	0
		13-Jun-24
	CEW	damaged trap
S1 - Center Plains	FAW	4
	SWCB	1
	WBCW	0



Blayne Reed