

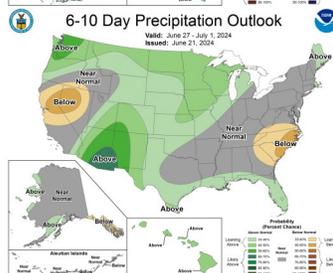
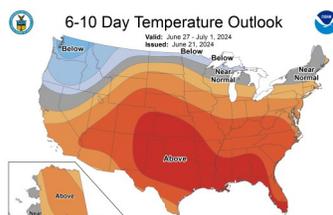
### General Status

The flurry of field activity slowed a bit this week. Not because all of the escaped weeds have been treated and are down for the count. While good progress has been made, high winds and misting and spotty rains are holding sprayers from covering much ground this week. Last weekend and through the first half of this week, strong south and southwest winds blew continuously for several days and nights. With speeds of 20-30 mph the winds were not overly damaging thanks to preventative measures or sand-fighting efforts, but tiresome and impossible to make herbicide applications in. These



Central HALE plants early growth shaped by constant winds this week.

winds had been so constant and strong for so long, several young cotton fields early and rapid growth were warped and shaped by the winds. With weed escapes growing away squeezing from one end and acceptable spraying conditions pressing with few and far



between spraying opportunities on the other and some were pressured into a few herbicide drift issues for the region, setting some acres and portions of fields back. For acres already treated, keeping up with other crop needs began, such as PGR treatments where viable and fertilizer applications are underway. Pest pressure was down this week, but potential pests might be showing at least in pockets sooner than we would like.

**Extended Forecast for Plainview TX**

| This Afternoon                        | Tonight    | Saturday    | Saturday Night | Sunday      | Sunday Night | Monday      | Monday Night | Tuesday     |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                       |            |             |                |             |              |             |              |             |
| High: 83 °F<br>Slight Chance T-storms | Low: 65 °F | High: 91 °F | Low: 67 °F     | High: 95 °F | Low: 68 °F   | High: 95 °F | Low: 72 °F   | High: 98 °F |

## Cotton

Our PPM scouting program cotton fields ranged in stage from 1<sup>st</sup> true leaf through ¼ grown square this week with most fields hovering around 5<sup>th</sup> true leaf through pinhead square. Probably 40% of our fields are still susceptible to thrips damage at this time but population movement seems to have slowed with other green host plant choices available. For fields already treated, some being treated multiple times earlier, thrips populations remain low following treatments while for a few late fields that emerged in early June, the thrips numbers never really built to threshold numbers. Our susceptible fields ranged from 0.08 through 0.89 thrips per true leaf stage with threshold being 1 thrips per leaf stage. Fields will remain at risk from thrips until pinhead squares are consistent across the field.

Fleahoppers and other plant bugs are our main focus as we move away from thrips pressure. Early season fruit loss to these pests can be devastating. In most cases, fleahoppers and Lygus prefer other host plants such as weeds (mostly silverleaf nightshade for fleahoppers), alfalfa, or even roadsides. But as we control, harvest, or maintain these other hosts they are forced into cotton as a very acceptable secondary host.

Last week and early this week it felt as though this might be a light plant bug year. Starting Wednesday I started finding fleahopper adults and now feel these might be at least normally heavy in several pockets. On a typical year, it seems we will treat 5-30% of our cotton acres for fleahoppers or a fleahopper / Lygus combination population before 1<sup>st</sup> bloom. It does look to be shaping up to at least an average plant bug year. Determining which fields will need treatment will require careful scouting to prevent the excess loss of our most important cotton fruiting sites. Most of our fields held no fleahoppers this week but we found adults in some of the typical areas (with silverleaf nightshade weeds in-field or near or near draws with ample pasture). We did not have any fields over threshold yet and most of our fruit loss was weather related and did not exceed 9%. But in these few fields we clearly had some fleahopper damage starting with adults fairly easy to find with some 8-13% of the terminals infested with fleahoppers. If predators do not intervene, I would expect to see several of these fields reach threshold once the fleahopper eggs start



Adult fleahopper found in S Swisher this week feeding on a pinhead square.

hatching over the next few weeks, easily doubling potential fruit loss from the nymphs.

We are starting to pick up more beneficials in our growing cotton fields, particularly in the fields where we are starting to see the fleahoppers. These beneficials included spiders, minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs, and adult lady beetles, of which the big-eyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, and spiders are relatively good at feeding on fleahoppers and their nymphs, if no slower prey are available.



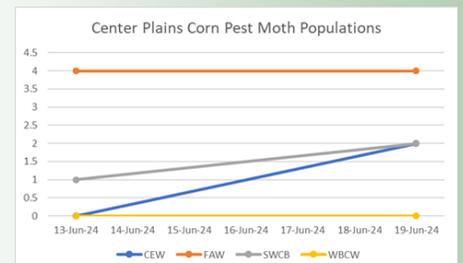
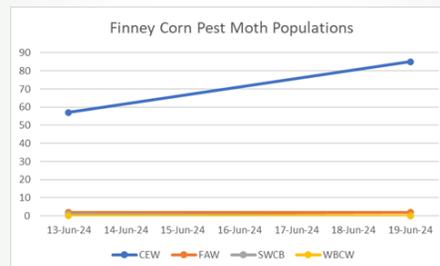
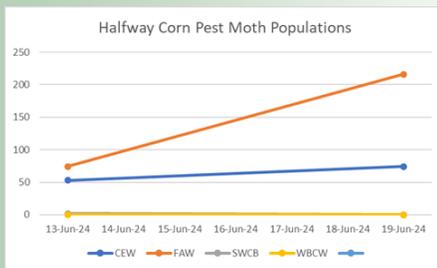
Minute pirate bug adult: photo: bugwood

### Corn and Sorghum

There remains limited pressure in our few corn and sorghum PPM fields. Grasshoppers are causing mild damage to the edge of one of our corn fields and some very, very light fall armyworm feeding has been noted. But to date, we have not seen any aphids in either crop and only one small colony of mites in corn a few weeks ago. Weeds, fertilizer applications, and irrigation needs are the only concerns in our fields so far. Our fields ranged in stage this week from loading in the planter to V10 with most emerged fields hovering around V8-9.



Corn and sorghum in the whorl this week.





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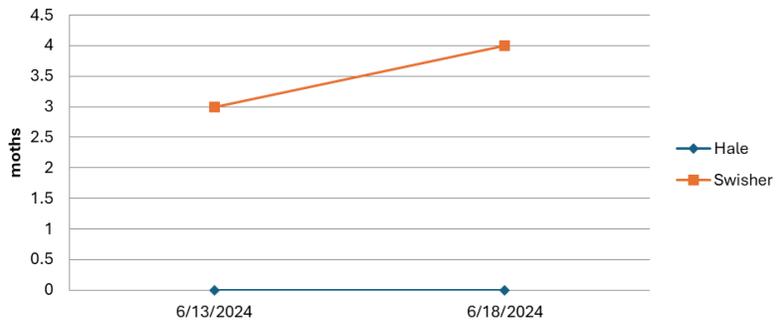
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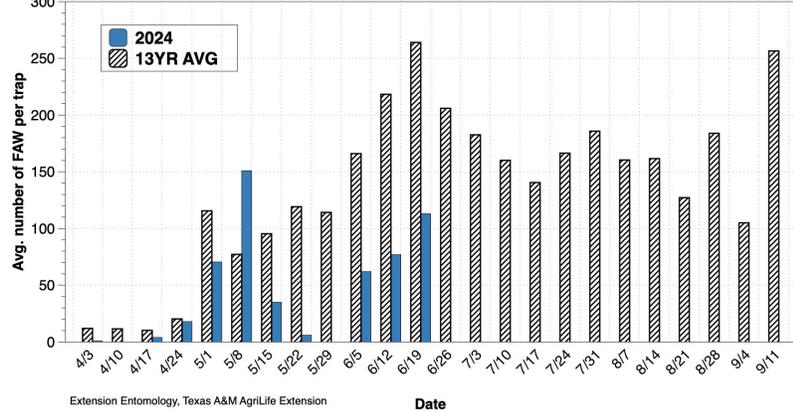


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## 2024 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches Set Locations



Average number of fall armyworms per trap per week, 2024, Lubbock Texas. Averages based on two traps.



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Date

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This work is supported in part by the Crop Protection and Pest Management, Extension Implementation Program [award no. 2021-70006-35347/project accession no. 1027036] from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.