

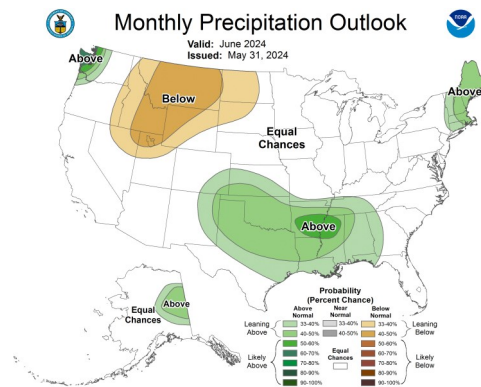
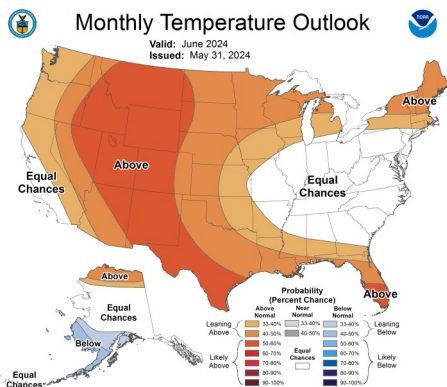
JUNE 7, 2024

General Status

Most of our fields are still well behind on moisture, but coming into this summer, we did at least receive some light but timely rainfall giving us some hope and generated some excitement for our 2024 crops following a couple of rough years. Getting this crop started has had a multitude of challenges and field activity is still at a blistering pace. From hard rains to too little moisture, an early temperature nose diving rollercoaster to scorching heat with dry winds, weeds in full armor, and both subsoil and above ground early season pest this planting season has seen just about everything except low input costs. With some signs of some wear and tear, most of our Hale and Swisher acres are off and running well enough with a manageable future.



Corn and Cotton Fields this week, both from near the Hale/Swisher line, have been through multiple adversities and have the damage to show for it, but are in pretty good shape with potential to make a crop.



Extended Forecast for Plainview TX

Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night
Low: 70 °F	High: 99 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 59 °F
Mostly Clear	Hot	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy

Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management scouting program cotton ranged in stage from emerging through 4th true leaf stage with most fields hovering around the cotyledon to 1st true leaf stage. Wireworm pressure through emergence has been widespread. We have no fields with zero pressure and have lost a couple to the resulting damage, although it was not the only adversity those fields faced. Remove one or more of the adversity factors, such as a hard rain behind the planter, low soil temperatures following planting, or the pest themselves, these fields might have established a sustainable plant population. It should be noted that the fields lost were not treated with an insecticidal seed treatment in an understandable effort to keep production costs down. It should also be noted that all fields experienced plant per acre reductions to these wireworm and false wireworm pests and we are keeping several fields with below optimum plant populations. These low plant populations will also be hindered with slower development from an increase in seedling disease allowed into the plant at higher rates by the open wounds the wireworm feeding caused. These fields have limited but acceptable yield potential so long as inputs remain matched to realistic expectations.



Wireworm larvae with associated damage to cotton seedling.

As cotton emerged from all of the challenges of establishment, they were met by a high thrips population that blanketed both counties this year. The only fields in our program that have not reached threshold for thrips thus far are those freshly emerged at cotyledon stage with insecticidal seed treatments applied. Officially our thrips numbers ranged from 0.18 to 2.86 thrips per true leaf. These numbers are a mix of fields already treated and those yet to be treated. Seed treatments are working well, seeming to hold this year to just past the 2nd true leaf stage and preventing thrips reproduction by controlling all thrips moving in-field. Unfortunately, the fog of thrips moving in to many of our fields was so great that treatment was needed early on top to the seed treatment and certainly needed for fields without seed treatments by the 1st true leaf stage. Several fields have needed multiple applications to keep thrips



Thrips damage on a seedling with insecticidal seed treatment (Left) and without (Right). Both required an over-the-top treatment this week.

below the threshold of 1 thrips per true leaf stage. In others, one treatment has been sufficient so far. Plants will be susceptible to thrips damage until pinhead square stage, or about 6-7th true leaf stage.



Thrips near the developing growing point on a cotton seedling.

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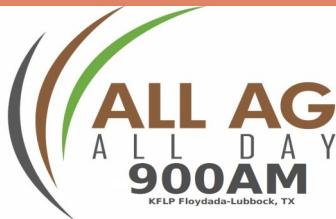
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Corn and Sorghum

Our grain crops were a touch less exciting to get rolling. Our program corn ranges in stage from seed in the barn to V6 stage. We had no pests of note in either crop with some notable herbicide damage and heat stress, but development is rolling along. We are evaluating some possible early establishment of a few disease symptoms in the corn but nothing that look threatening yet.

Grasshopper Populations

Despite some timely spring rain events, which can often reduce emerging grasshopper nymph emergence, populations look to be quite high. At this time we do not know how widespread the heaviest populations are, but some level of pressure is present across both Hale and Swisher with multiple areas showing incredible numbers of multiple species. I have had multiple calls and questions about grasshoppers impacting the edges of crops, horticulture and garden areas, and pastures and we are nearing treatable level in our program's alfalfa. For control, please refer to the respective label and trusted professional for any given environment and situation but I dare say some of the older labeled chemistries may not be fully effective against the high numbers. In most cases there should be available modern insecticides that are proven to be highly effective and safer than many of the older, cheaper insecticides labeled for grasshopper control.



Grasshopper nymphs in a SW Swisher this week.

Blayne Reed