TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

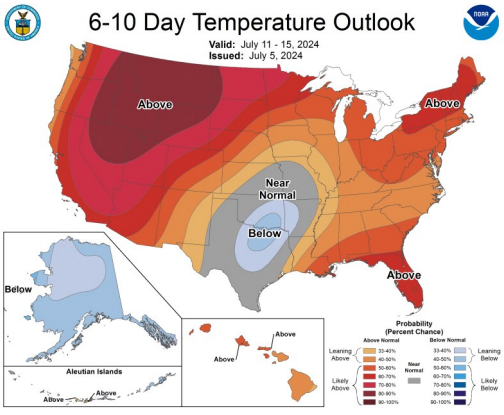
Plains Pest Management News

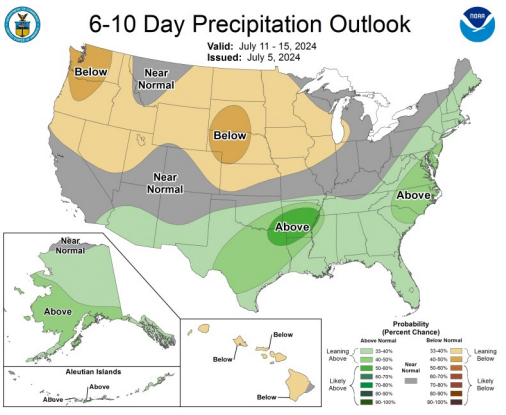
JULY 5, 2024

General Status

Some light rain, although sometimes 'falling' heavy were scattered around most of both Hale and Swisher this week. The amounts varied but were rarely over a few tenths of an inch and caused more ruckus and wind than beneficial rainfall, with a few small pockets of exceptions (usually where hay had just been lain down of needed to be). No one will complain about any droplet that falls but very few acres actually received enough moisture to make mud for more than a few hours or to be of long-term benefit with the dry soil sucking up every drop quickly. Showers did relieve the early signs of severe drought stress on most of our good-looking dryland fields, but more is needed very soon as soil moisture is depleting rapidly. In the meantime, cotton remains under threat of pests, weed escapes show just how tough they are, wheat is under full harvest steam, irrigations kick off heavily, and fertilizer applications hit max. Field activity and the need to be in the field continues to be high, but the crops are showing the prospects from the efforts.

July 4th bloom found by our PPM grower in SE Swisher. Only a few fields are starting to set bolls, but there are some in the area.





Cotton

This week our PPM scouting program cotton ranged in stage from 6th true leaf stage through 1st bloom with most fields hovering between ¼ grown square and ¾ grown square and there being a sizable number of stragglers below matchhead square. Fleahoppers were taking center stage again as our primary pest of concern this week with several of our fields requiring treatment and almost all fields holding some level of fleahopper population. Our fields ranged from a few fields with no Fleahoppers found up to around 45% terminals infested. Most fields hovered between 4% and 18% infested terminals with those showing higher infestation rates also having an increase in fruit loss justifying treatment for the pest. In a few border call fields, a slight Lygus population mixed with the Fleahoppers did cause enough fruit loss to justify treatment as well.

Fleahooper adult: Porter

Multiple adult fleahoopers from a data set this week.

Image showing several missing squares.

The current population of fleahopeprs is a healthy mix of adults and nymphs of all ages, indicating that reproduction is underway in-field by the pest and a fairly long residual might be needed if the field is above threshold. Fruit set continues to look pretty good unless Fleahoppers were starting to cause economic fruit loss. Most fields were showing 5% or lower fruit loss, which is outstanding. Those that required treatment in our program showed sharp increases in drop from the week prior and had 10% to 20% drop this week.

There is quite a lot of activity in our fields with quite a 'battle' going on with beneficial arthropods helping us hold the Fleahoppers in check in the majority of our fields. Nabids are our largest helper this week with a major increase in their numbers in our data sets. This is pretty good news as this is one type of predator that can have a very positive impact on plant bugs, if no slower and easier to catch pest is available. We have seen no aphids or other secondary pests to date. We continue to see pretty high spider numbers but several big-eyed-bugs are usually higher than we are finding this year so far.

Nabid alongside a fleahopper nymph on our drop cloth this week.

Corn and Sorghum

The oldest PPM corn this week.

This week our corn ranged in stage from emerging through green silk stage with the majority around V12(X) and still a bit out from tassel. Our few sorghum fields ranged from early flag through 10% bloom. Pests in both of these two crop in our program fields remain quizzically absent. We did find a solo Banks grass mite colony in our oldest corn field, a few damaged sorghum leaves from yellow sugarcane aphids, and a few fall armyworm damaged sorghum leaves with no larvae found this week.

Sorghum at 10% bloom this week.

Grasshoppers remain in the area causing some light foliage damage. While both crops are susceptible to a plethora of pests, for now, the only major issue of concern would be if the grasshoppers started congregating on the corn silks, interfering with pollination or feeding on ears. Sorghum in bloom is at risk of sorghum midge, headworms (trap data indicates there should be some in the area), and every aphid that feeds on sorghum. Corn, especially post tassel, is susceptible to several Lepidopteran species and mites usually increase post tassel in high temperatures, but we are not finding much in our fields at this time. On the disease side, we are seeing some very light grey leaf spot but even rust is hard to find.

The lone BGM colony found in N. Hale on a lower leaf this week.

For quick studies and information on any major pest, please visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@texasamagrilifeextensionen4842.

There you can find how to scout videos, solid information on multiple pests species and more.

Texas A&M 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

We're ONLINE

Newsletters and IPM Reports

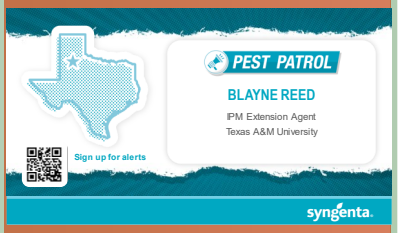
as well as out latest

High Plains Weekly IPM "Radio" Podcast

at Plains Pest Bugosphere

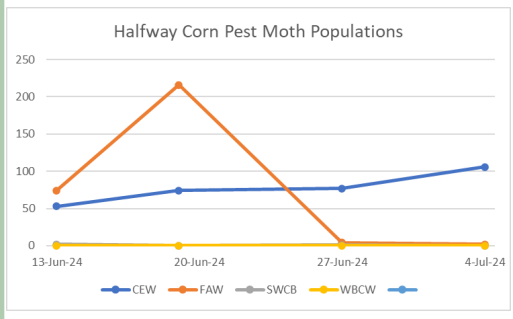
https://halecountyipm.blogspot.com

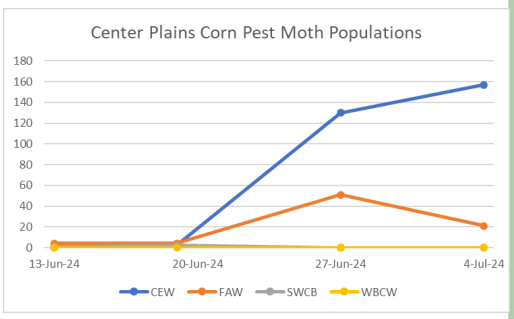
For text pest alerts to your phone, register at:

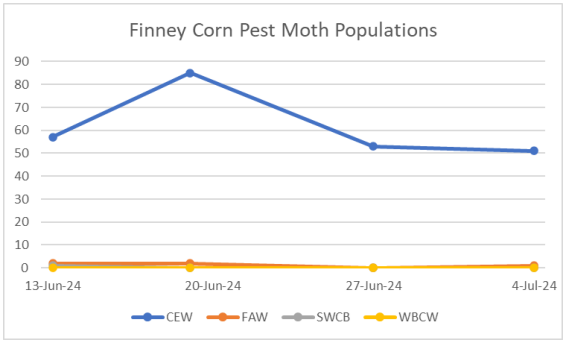


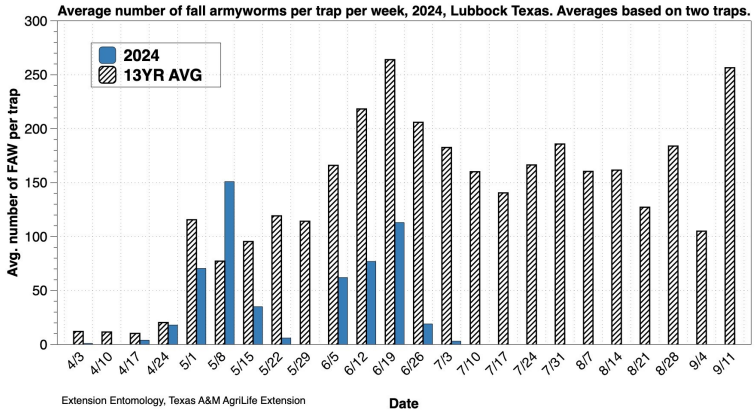
Grasshoppers in one of our traditional bollworm moth traps this week.

The high grasshopper population is causing issues with our traditionally placed bollworm moth traps this year. The grasshoppers inadvertently trap themselves, but survive by eating moths, destroying our data. I do not like the smaller plastic traps as they cannot handle large numbers of moths or detect large fluctuations in moth flights, but we might need to change to avoid losing our summer population data.









Blayne Reed

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.