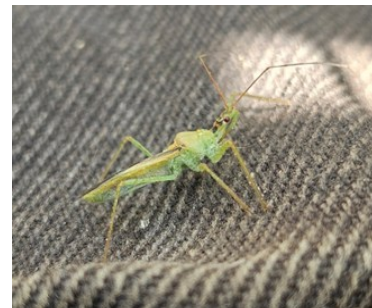


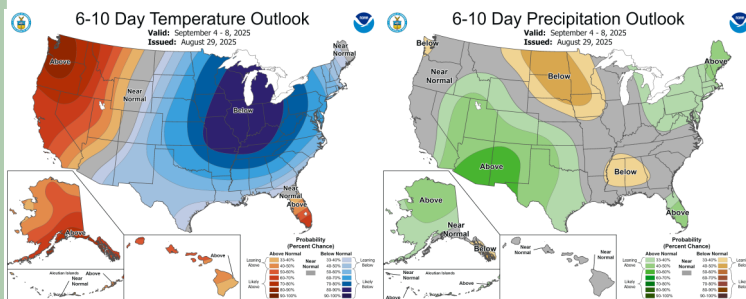
AUGUST 29, 2025

General Status

It is that time of year that pests should be easing as crop development is in its late stages and days start getting shorter. The nights start to get a note of chill just before dawn. Morning dew is common and lingers until mid-morning. Discussions about the first killing freeze popup around the gathering spots. Here in West Texas on the High Plains, where we never truly see an average year but rather a conglomerate of outliers averaged, most of this is true for this last week. Our summer grain fields are certainly on the downhill side of crop development with the finish line in sight. Wheat drills are getting ready and some running already. There do remain some vocalized grower concerns about the cotton crop and heat units for the season. Some concern is justified, especially for late fields when viewing the upcoming forecast with fears of early snap freezes remembered from years ago. I maintain most cotton fields are within a good 'landing pattern' and those that are lush still have a manageable maturity development trajectory. Someone needs to tell the pests this. We still have solid pressure from multiple species in most cotton fields and late grain fields, especially those lush fields. We have had a beneficial population that has not slowed either. These have been keeping several fields from requiring treatment. But not all. We have had a minority of fields, reach threshold with various pests. We may need to stay active in our scouting this late summer a few weeks longer than 'average' for these pests, and a few



Assassin bugs are always good to see in our PPM field scouting, like this one this week.



others, with developments and IPM decisions still on a field-by-field basis.

Cotton



C Swisher field has been cut-out for 2 weeks and should be passed most insect damage in a few weeks

About 80% of our Plains Pest Management scouting program cotton in Hale, Swisher, and Floyd Counties are at the critical absolute cut-out stage and have been since or just before the average last effective bloom date of August 24th. We have about 10% of fields slowing vegetative growth and coming into that cut-out stage now. And we also have about 10% hovering around 5 NAWF (nodes

above white flower) that have the most potential to be problematic. These fields are still trying to put on new vegetative growth and show little signs of slowing. These fields also happen to have the most irrigation capacity and, in most cases, have had the highest rainfall so far this summer. Fields in this situation are probably in line for irrigation mitigation if not outright early termination. If farther maturity management proves necessary, there are options available before heat unit accumulation ends, such as the managed maturity treatments with ultra-light doses of Aim tested right here a few years ago. These fields seem to be the 10% exception and not the rule with most developing fruit on a good maturity schedule.



SW Swisher field still lingering at 5.8 NAWF this week is at risk of being 'late.'

Bollworms and Lygus were active in our scouting fields again this week. Beneficials remained very impactful on the worm population. A slight drop in bollworm egg lay combined with these active predators aided in dropping



Lygus in NW Floyd this week.

our number of fields that we found bollworms in this week. Only two of our Non-Bt cotton fields barely reached economic levels for worms and these were aided by Lygus at almost economic levels. Our bollworm populations ranged between 0 and 7,000 worms per acre with most fields with worms held between 500

and 1,800 per acre small to medium worms with no large worms found at all. All fields had some worm feeding evidence, including those Bt fields with the VIP trait or where worms could not be found. Most of this damage was below 1% harvestable fruit damaged but was near the 6% level in our economic field and around 2% for a few higher-pressure fields.



Medium bollworm found in SW Swisher this week.

While there are later fields trying to develop late fruit with little chance of becoming a harvestable boll at this point, these fields could still harbor an establishing worm population with this young fruit until the worms develop in stage to a point they can feed on older, harvestable bolls. These fields will be susceptible to worms for a few more weeks at least where most fields should be safe in 7- 10 days.



Lygus nymph from C Swisher this week.

Lygus were found in all but the driest fields this week. Most populations came in around 1 Lygus per 13.5 row feet or so but plenty of hotter fields were below 1 Lygus per 4 row feet. At this level of pressure damage from Lygus was common. For many lush fields high with Lygus much of this feeding was on young fruit with little chance of making. Our joint bollworm and Lygus damaged fields that needed treatment this week were lush. In

this case the Lygus were feeding on enough harvestable bolls to justify treatment when combined with the worms feeding on similar bolls.

Our stink bug populations were almost identical to last week's with only solitary stink bugs found with no clustering and very limited damage to harvestable bolls that was difficult to detect (internal scarring and damage to the boll). Fields will be susceptible to this stink bug damage, especially if the insects cluster into selected fields, almost until harvest aid applications. We continue to find a few aphids in a few fields, but we did note an increase behind a joint Lygus and worm treated field from last week where beneficials were lost. This field increased from 0.12 aphids per leaf to 2.25. In pre-open boll cotton the



Stink bug in C Swisher this week.

threshold for aphids remains about 50 aphids per leaf but once open cotton is noted, this drops to 12 aphids per leaf to prevent sticky cotton. We continue to find a few foliar feeding caterpillars of assorted species in most non-Bt fields but all at levels below 1,500 per acre and no serious harvestable fruit damage from these pests.

Table 7. Lygus action threshold

Cotton stage	Sampling method	
	Drop cloth	Sweep net
1st two weeks of squaring*	1-2 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set	8 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set
3rd week of squaring to 1st bloom	2-3 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable square set	15 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable square set
After peak bloom	4-6 per 6 ft-row with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks	15-20 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks

Sweep net: Standard 15-inch net, sample 1 row at a time, taking 15-25 sweeps. Recommended before peak bloom.

Drop cloth: Black recommended, 3-foot sampling area, sample 2 rows. Recommended after peak bloom. Stop sampling and treating when NAWF = 5 + 350 DD60's.

*In West Texas, insecticide applications for lygus are rarely needed in prebloom cotton as lygus generally stay in roadside weeds and vegetation until cotton begins flowering.

Save the Date!

Plains Pest Management Field Day—September 29, 2025

- PhytoGen Variety Trial
- If-Furrow at planting wireworm treatment efficacy trial.
- Cotton seed treatment efficacy trial 2025
- IPM Update
- Nematodes for wireworm control trial

Sorghum

Our PPM sorghum ranged in stage from soft dough through late hard dough. Headworms were our largest concern this week with a few fields still with sorghum aphids increasing. All fields treated for sorghum aphids are holding solid with any aphids difficult to find. Headworms seemed to decrease in pressure some this week compared to last week. All fields not treated for aphids have notable populations with beneficials generally holding the pest for minimal gains. Our headworms population consisted of a



Grain in NW Hale starting to show color and maturity this week.



Medium FAW in S Swisher this week.

few more fall armyworms proportionally but the majority remained corn earworms / bollworms. Our highest population this week came in at 0.4 total worms per head with the majority being small worms. Lygus increased per head again this week as the grain matures with most head having some Lygus present. Our highest Lygus pressure was just over 2 per head at late dough stage while we feel the threshold should be around 12 per head during soft dough. Stink bugs also increased but were still well below 1 per head and no clustering beyond nymphs just out of the egg.

We had no fields reach threshold for any pest this week with beneficials having another large impact in our fields.

Corn

Our corn ranged in stage from silking on our late corn and dent on all of our older corn. Pests were very quiet on corn. Spider mites, still mostly Banks grass mites, had little change from last week. Our largest change from last week was another increase from diseases. While Late Season Decline seems to have made its mark on most infected plants by this time, southern rust made large increases in fields awaiting silage cutting momentarily. This increase was significant and likely triggered by recent cooler days and consistent morning dew. If these fields required much more wait time for harvest, treatment might be needed. With harvest only hours to days away from our checks this week, this increase should have only limited impacts on actual yields. No increase in any kind of rust was noted on our late fields which are pollenating this week and next.



Southern rust increased to near the ear leaf on corn awaiting the silage cutter this week, NW Hale.

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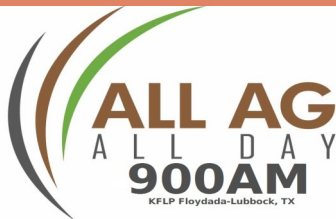
PEST PATROL

BLAYNE REED
 IPM Extension Agent
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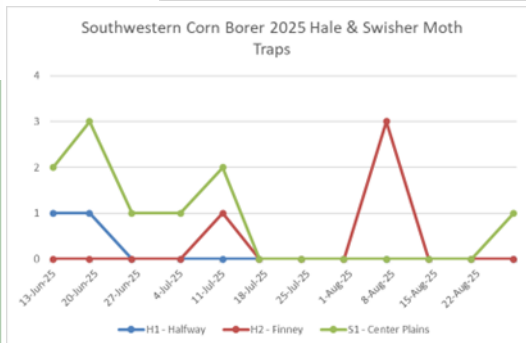
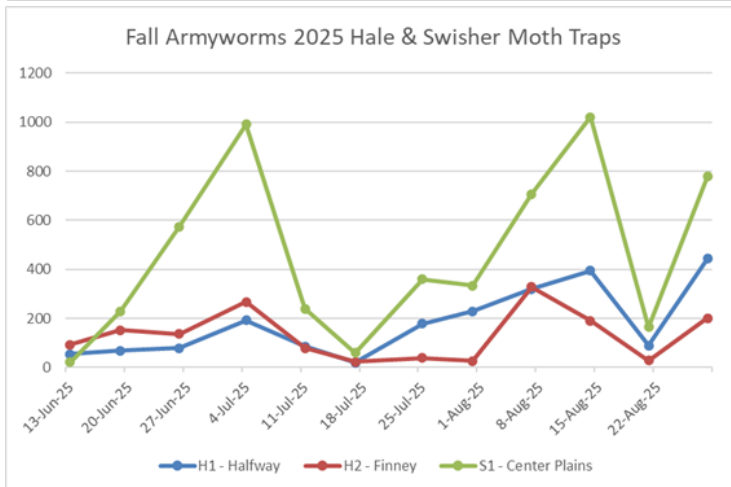
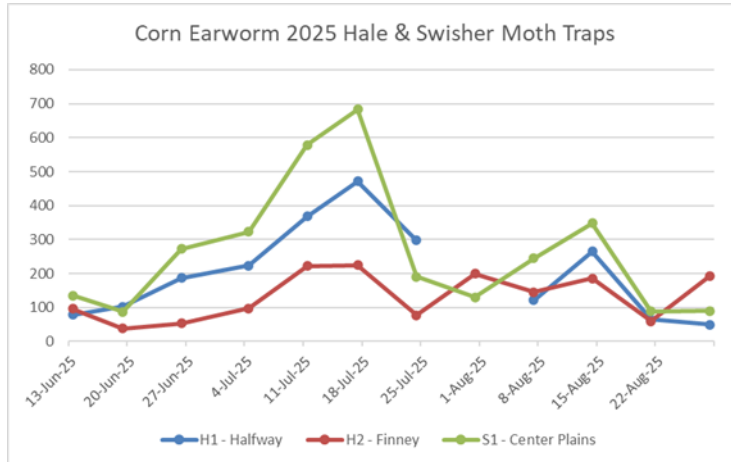
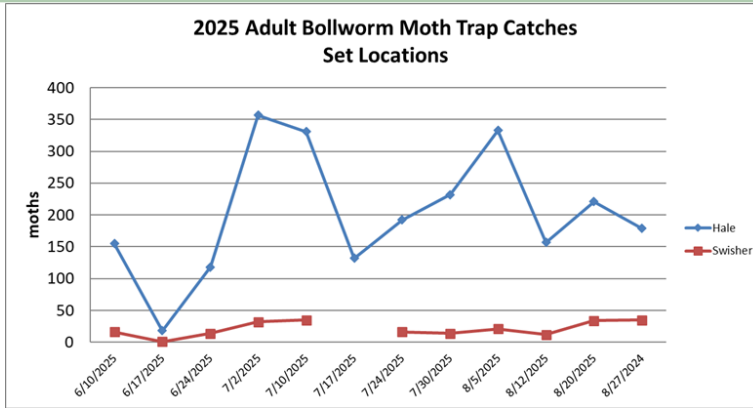


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Blayne Reed