

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley,
Cochran, and
Lamb Counties
from
Kerry Siders

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PEST AND CROP UPDATE

Cotton has really been driven hard by the high temperatures. There are several fields which have already reached physiological cut-out of 5 or fewer nodes above uppermost 1st position white flower (NAWF). My hope is that since temperatures have moderated somewhat the past few days that this will allow the plant to continue adding some terminal growth at the same pace at which it blooms. In other words, it is possible to maintain this 5 NAWF for 7-10 days before it goes into permanent cutout. It would be best to have 5 NAWF occur July 30- August 5. This would result in blooms in or near the terminal nearer the last effective bloom date. Pest wise we are not concerned so much with fleahoppers once we move into bloom stage cotton. I would concentrate on Lygus, worms on conventional cotton, and watching for aphids and even the Kurtomathrip (Desert thrips). Irrigation is critical at this stage for cotton to progress at a pattern mentioned above and so that it matures out properly. To wait could only cause late growth which will possibly have maturity issues. Some have asked about growth regulators. I have not seen much cotton with this heat pattern which justifies much PGR's. Call if you have questions.

Grain sorghum in Hockley, Cochran and Lamb counties continues to not have detectable sugarcane aphids based on my survey of fields on Monday 18th and no reports from consultants. Please report in findings you may have to me so I can alert others. Scout for midge, headworms, mites and other species of aphids on those early planted fields. Corn is highly variable in how it has taken the heat and its impact on the pollination process. Irrigation demands have just been impossible to meet up until the last few days, and we may have another round of high temps the end of this week and weekend.

Peanuts are generally doing okay. The heat has hampered some pegs from penetrating soil and forming pods. Again, this current reprieve from the heat has helped. We are in the time frame in which a preventative fungicide application might be considered for maximum protection from disease and meeting yield goals. A few armyworm hits have been noted but no other pests besides weeds.

Lygus Bugs

The western tarnished plant bug (*Lygus hesperus* Knight) is one of several *Lygus* species that feeds on cotton terminals, squares and small bolls. Adults are 1/4 inch long, have a conspicuous triangle in the center of the back, are winged, and vary in color from pale green to yellowish brown with reddish brown to black markings. Immature lygus bugs are called nymphs. They are uniformly pale green with red-tipped antennae; late instars have four conspicuous black spots on the thorax and one large black spot near the base of the abdomen. The nymph's wings are not developed, but nymphs can move rapidly and are difficult to detect in cotton foliage. Small nymphs may be confused with aphids, cotton fleahoppers and leaf hopper nymphs. Plant bugs prefer legumes to cotton and usually are found in large numbers in areas of alfalfa or potato production or areas providing wild hosts such as clovers, vetches, mustard and dock.

Lygus bugs are attracted to succulent growth; their feeding results in shedding of squares and small bolls, stunted growth and boll deformation. Feeding damage to small bolls is often characterized as small black spots or small, sunken lesions. The feeding that causes these spots or lesions may or may not penetrate the boll wall and damage developing seeds or lint. Damage to blooms appears as black anthers and puckered areas in petals.



Management and decision making. The need for lygus bug control is determined by their abundance in relation to the fruiting condition of the cotton plants. Fields should be inspected for lygus bugs at 4- to 5-day intervals using a drop cloth.

During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is one lygus bug adult or nymph per 3 feet of row combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is one lygus bug adult or nymph per 3 feet of row combined with less than 85 percent square set. In the third week of squaring, the economic threshold is one lygus bug adult or nymph per 3 feet of row combined with less than 75 percent square set. After the third week of squaring, the economic threshold is two lygus bug adults or nymphs per 3 feet of row with less than acceptable fruit retention. After peak bloom, begin treatment when drop cloth counts exceed two lygus bug adults or nymphs per 3 feet of row and plants have failed to retain squares and set bolls normally during the first 4 to 5 weeks of fruiting.

Research in Arizona and California indicates that the western tarnished plant bug (*Lygus hesperus*) may be more difficult to control with insecticides and may require the use of higher labeled rates of suggested insecticides.

Suggested Insecticides for control of cotton fleahoppers and Lygus.

Insecticide	Formulated amount per acre	
	Fleahopper	Lygus
Address® 75S	4 - 5.33 oz.	10.66 - 21.33 oz
Address® 90S	3.34 - 4 oz	9 - 17.77
Orthene® 90S	3.34 - 4 oz	9 - 17.77
Orthene® 97	3.10 - 3.71 oz	8 - 16 oz
Intruder 70 WP	0.6-1.1 oz	1.1 oz
Capture® 2E	----	2.6 - 6.4 oz
Baythroid® 2E	----	1.6 - 2.6 oz
Leverage® 2.7SE	----	3.75 oz
Karate® 1E	----	2.56 - 3.84 oz
Karate® 2.08 CS	----	1.28 - 1.92 oz
Ammo® 2.5 E	----	2 - 5 oz
Decis® 1.5 E	----	1.11 - 1.62 oz
Lorsban® 4E	6 - 16 oz	----
Bidrin® 8E	0.8 - 3.2 oz	8 oz
Dimethoate® 2.67E	5.3 - 10.5 oz	10.7 oz
Dimethoate® 4E	4 - 8 oz	8 oz
Dimethoate® 5E	3.2 - 6.4 oz	6.4 oz
Asana XL® 0.66E	----	5.8 - 9.6 oz
Proaxis 0.5 E	----	2.56 - 3.84 oz
Prolex 1.25 E	----	1.02 - 1.54 oz
Provado® 1.6F	3.75 oz	3.75 oz
Trimax 4F	1.5 oz	
Steward® 1.25SC	9.2 - 11.3 oz	----
Lannate® 2.4LV	6 - 12 oz	0.75 pt
Methyl Parathion 4E	3.2 oz	1 - 2 pts
Vydate® 2L	1 pt	1 pt
Vydate® 3.77 C-LV	8.5 oz	12.7 - 34.0oz
Centric 40 WG	1.25-2.5 oz	
Parathion 8E	----	8 - 16 oz
Scout®X-tra 0.9E	----	2.28 - 2.84 oz
Fury® 1.5 E	----	2.99 - 4.26 oz

The use of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides may increase cotton aphid numbers

Private Pesticide Applicators Training

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) each month. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in training individuals must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior to the training in Levelland or 806-385-4222 ext 235 by 3pm the day prior to the training in Littlefield, and 806-266-5215 for training in Morton. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

Future PAT Trainings:

- July 28 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- August 24 Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- September 22 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- October 27 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- November 17 Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- and December 19 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of training.

See You On The Radio

IPM Radio Program Aglife on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:15 pm.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Hockley County Report on KLVT Levelland, High Plains Radio Network, radio 1230 AM, Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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