



This will be the last newsletter that we will be able to mail to you unless you have returned the post card we sent with the first newsletter in January. If you have lost the post card but wish to remain on the newsletter, give us a call at 956-968-5581 and ask for Amelia. She will then add you to the list for the 2003 season. Hope to hear from you soon.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter
for the Row Crops in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

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PEST CAST

John W. Norman, Jr.
Ext. Agent-Entomology (PM)

GENERAL SITUATION: Field moisture currently is adequate to more than adequate for planting cotton and grain sorghum in most locations around the LRGV. Some pre-plant irrigations have been made to a limited number of fields which were or are going to be planted to seed corn. Reports of some fields being too wet to work equipment also have been received over the last couple of weeks.

Crop planting continued this week. Corn planting is about to wind down and sorghum planting is increasing. No additional reports of cotton planting were received this week. It is still a little early to plant cotton, especially with the predictions of more cold and possibly wet weather to come this weekend and early next week.

The overall moisture situation is considerably different than the farmers in the LRGV have seen in a number of years. The spring of 1997 was wet starting in early March and it rained until early May. This year seems to be headed in the right direction with good soil moisture both at the top and bottom sides of the soil profile.

Boll weevil activity remains. Weevils have been reported in traps from all across the LRGV and likely will continue to do so until cotton begins to reach squaring stage. During periods of cool weather, similar to what we just experienced, weevil numbers will be low. Warmer periods such as Monday and Tuesday of this week will see higher captures of weevils.

If you are aware of old cotton stalks near your operations, you still should try to eliminate them. Call the Texas Department of Agriculture or talk to the neighbor whom you know has the stalks in his field and try to get them destroyed. Even at this late date, removal of those stalks will help since it is still at least two months before general cotton plantings will have squares. So, if possible, clean out the old stalks to lower the number of weevils that will go to newly squaring cotton. In short, there is never a bad time to remove old cotton stalks, it is just that destruction of stalks immediately after harvesting still is the best timing because it does the most damage to boll weevils.

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