



Special Edition
TOO MANY WEEVILS!

Boll weevils remain in nearly every trap around the LRGV over the last several months. (See trap records for the last three weeks in enclosed graphs.) Many traps were capturing over 5 weevils per trap per day and others were catching over 10 per trap per day. A single trap northwest of Rio Hondo (#76) caught 104 weevils during the week of October 14-21 (traps checked October 21). That particular field was flat broken during the week of October 14 which could indicate why so many weevils were caught. Usually, a major field operation like plowing tends to show up as a large trap capture immediately following the field activity. Other traps were showing weevil numbers from 10-50 per trap for the week. This week's trap readings were slightly lower possibly in part because of the rainy weather and at trap 76 (24 weevils this week) because no other field activity was ongoing. Most other LRGV traps showed continued captures of weevils.

All of the weevils being trapped are pointing to the need to do what can be done to control cotton regrowth and/or volunteer cotton. The rain has slowed or prevented some field clean-up, but some fields were dry enough before the rains to get the stalks destroyed and in some cases they were not.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) inspectors have been checking all fields around the LRGV and posting those not free of cotton which can host boll weevils—those with squares, blooms or bolls. Once cotton begins to square, the odds are that weevils will find the field and start feeding and laying eggs. The likelihood that squares will become blooms and small bolls exists in just three short weeks here in the LRGV. So, if cotton is fruiting, it needs to be destroyed. Even if it is not fruiting, why wait until it is fruiting to make the decision to kill the stalks. The wet field conditions are a problem for stalk destruction, but when they clear, field activity to destroy all stalks should commence immediately.

The weevils being found now can survive the winter and infest next year's cotton crop, especially if we allow them all of the food and reproductive sites that they currently have available. Don't wait, kill those stalks quickly.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to Rio Farms, Inc. of Monte Alto for providing help with the boll weevil trapping efforts. Dale Murden, Rio Farms General Manager, provided funding to pay the salary and travel of Mr. Greg Pinkston to monitor the traps from early September through this week. Trapping for weevils will hopefully commence again in January, 2003. Once again, many thanks to Rio Farms for their much needed assistance.

 THE INFORMATION GIVEN HEREIN IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. REFERENCES TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS OR TRADE NAMES ARE MADE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NO DISCRIMINATION IS INTENDED AND NO ENDORSEMENT BY THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IS IMPLIED.

PEST CAST

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

2401 East Highway 83
 Weslaco, Texas 78596
 Telephone (956) 968-5581
 Fax (956) 969-5639
 WebSite: <http://entowww.tamu.edu>
 TPMA Newsletter Website: www.tpma.org
 District 12 Website: <http://agfacts.tamu.edu/D12>

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











