Texas Agricultural Extension Service - District 11

INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

ROUTE 2, BOX 589 - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78406

ROY D. PARKER
EXTENSION ENTOMOLOGIST
PHONE: 361-265-9203

EMIL (TREY) D. BETHKE III
EXTENSION AGENT-ENTOMOLOGY
OFFICE: 361-387-7101
MOBILE:850-0167

JOHN E. BREMER
EXTENSION WEED SPECIALIST
PHONE: 361-265-9203

Web site: http://entowww.tamu.edu http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~rparker/

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COTTON INSECT REPORT

Last weekend brought rains varying in amount from 0.33 inches to around 3 inches. Probably the average for the area was around 1.5 inches. This rain was really well timed, but we'll still need an early June rain to get through boll development. Cotton maturity ranges from some very late planted cotton now at matchhead square to cotton that is in its 3rd to 4th week of bloom.

We're still struggling with a few fields with aphids. These fields are few and far between and given last weekend's rain should be fine at least for the short term. If the aphids persist for another 4-7 days and the plants start to get that "sucked down" appearance, there could be some insecticides going out for aphid control. I hate to see this because we really need the beneficials that are in those fields to stay with us as we monitor the quickly developing bollworm situation.

During the week we found fields in the Loyola Beach area of Kleberg County (southeast of Ricardo) to have bollworms in the range of 8-14 larvae per 100 plants. The worms we are finding are very small 1st and 2nd instar larvae. Eight to 14% worms is well within the range of our economic threshold for bollworms and these fields were to be sprayed. As we move away from this area, the worms are not showing up in such great numbers. Nonetheless, we are rather consistently finding 2-6% worms in fields throughout the area. Worm eggs have not been found in abundance and worm damage square percentages have been highly variable.

Cotton producers should be on the lookout as this worm situation could spread throughout the area. Most of our fields do not have an abundance of aphids and, consequently, we are not finding many beneficial insects.

Over the past year and a half I've not had to write a single time in the insect report about boll weevil, but this week we came across several fields in Nueces County that are carrying reproducing populations of boll weevils (i.e., I found many shed squares with egg-lay punctures). If you come across this situation in one of your fields, do not hesitate to report this information. This is a serious development and the cotton industry as a whole needs to pull out all the stops at this time to rectify it.

Finally, fleahopper numbers really declined this week. This is to be expected since the cotton throughout the area is getting bigger and the fleahoppers are getting diluted out in this big cotton. They no longer need to congregate in the smaller, more fleahopper susceptible cotton (match head to 1/3 grown square stage). The unsusceptible, post-bloom cotton has plenty of new growth at this time to satisfy most of the fleahoppers.

Be very conscious over the next several weeks for bollworms. Another good rain in 2 weeks and we should be set up for a good year. EDB

BOLL WEEVIL SITUATION

Boll weevils continue to move into cotton fields from overwintered quarters. Although their numbers are not high compared to pre-boll weevil eradication days, the quality of the females being captured is impressive. They are robust and appear strong. It may be related to the high quality of their food late last season and presence of locations for reproduction throughout the winter.

Another alarming situation is the presence of punctured squares (egg deposition and grubs) at scattered locations. Some of these sites show heavy boll weevils. These infestations will require frequent treatment and beneficial arthropods will be destroyed; be ready to take care of secondary insect outbreaks in these fields. We are also beginning to observe bollworm infestations even in untreated fields.

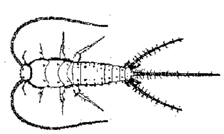
We have collected enough squares to initiate the malathion tolerance screening being funded by Cotton Incorporated at one site.

In order to keep the boll weevil infestation contained, consultants, producers and field scouts should inspect fields for boll weevil infestation and contact the appropriate eradication office immediately when an infestation is found. Possibly the infestations can be contained.

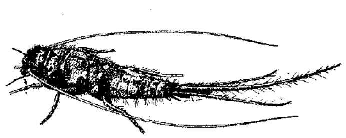
Second generation boll weevils are beginning to emerge in fields that are near 4 weeks of bloom. Numbers can change from almost non-detectable to easily found when the second in-season generation begins to feed and lay eggs. RDP

INTERESTING INSECTS

The insect order Thysanura (thysan = bristle or fringe; ura = tail) contains the silverfish and firebrats. They are somewhat flattened with 3 tail-like appendages at the end of the abdomen. The body is nearly always covered with scales. The silverfish is gray in color and the firebrat is tan or brown. Eyes are small and widely separated which separates them from the order microcoryphia (last newsletter). They occur, depending on species, under bark, in caves and mammal burrows, in termite and ant nests, and inhabit buildings. The two species that inhabit buildings, feed on starched clothing, curtains, linens, silks, and the starch paste in wallpaper. They also feed on paper, vegetables and foods that contain starch. The order is represented in the U.S. by 18 species. RDP



Silverfish



Firebrat

KNOW YOUR PRODUCT

If it sounds too good to be true over the telephone …it probably is! Buyer beware. I have been approached to purchase a product for fence line and farmstead vegetation control at a special (for a limited time only) price. It kills all unwanted weeds, leaves grass for erosion control, is safe for livestock, can be applied anytime (except while frost is on the ground), will not move off target, stores well, and on and on - you begin to get the idea. Payment may be made by COD or by credit card to save even more.

Before you "invest" in unknown or untested products, please take time to: 1. Ask for the active ingredient; 2. Ask for the formulation; 3. Ask about the return policy; 4. Ask for a telephone number where you might call to order product at a later time. Chances are you will not be able to get all of these. This should be a tipoff that the "ideal" bargain product you are being asked to purchase may not be. JEB

Product Descriptions

Formulation	Meaning
AF	Aqueous Flowable
AS	Aqueous Suspension
D	Dust
DF	Dry Flowable, also Water-Dispersible Granule
EC or E	Emulsifiable Concentrate
ES	Emulsifiable Solution
F or FL	Flowable
G	Granular
OL	Oil-Soluble Liquid
P or PS	Pelleted
S	Solution
SL	Slurry
SP	Soluble Powder
SG	Sand Granules
ULV	Ultra-Low Volume Concentrate
W or WP	Wettable Powder
WDG	Water-Dispersible Granules, also Dry Flowable
WSB	Water-soluble Bag
WSP	Water-soluble Pak or Packet

View our newsletter earlier on the internet on the TPMA website (http://www.tpma.org/) by selecting "IPM newsletter" on the drop-down menu by going to "Coastal Bend" and "go". Other sites include http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~rparker or the Department of Entomology (http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/. Also pest management information is available at www.txaac.org.

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