



INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

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COTTON STALK DESTRUCTION

For the past 24 years this newsletter has included information on how valuable early and complete cotton stalk destruction is in reducing boll weevil numbers. Earlier is better; removing them strictly by the regulation date is a goal to accomplish but a better goal would be much earlier. It is the one method by which we know this insect can be stopped since it removes the food source. Better stalk destruction last season resulted in fewer boll weevils in and outside the boll weevil eradication zone. It was obvious this season in the pheromone trap catch which areas had outstanding stalk destruction last year. Not near as many malathion applications were applied this year where stalk destruction was superior last year. **Realize that this newsletter is read by but a small fraction of cotton producers. Please bring up this subject with your friends and neighbors.** RDP

ALTERNATIVE COTTON STALK DESTRUCTION

There has been much interest in alternative cotton stalk destruction throughout the South Texas area. While many producers are using various tillage methods to destroy their stubble, be aware that there are other choices available.

Regardless of the method chosen, the primary purpose of destroying cotton stalks remains the same. That is the removal of both feeding and fruiting sites that may be used by the boll weevil to reproduce.

The alternative method is of particular interest to producers when their fields are too dry or wet to timely till. Another reason for choosing this procedure is the producer's choice of no-till crop production.

Be sure to follow the Texas Department of Agriculture rules for the new system including the notification of your intent to use this alternative on a particular farm. Herbicides that have

proven effective to destroy cotton stalks include many hormone product derivatives. NOT all 2,4-D or banvel products are currently approved for cotton stalk destruction. Stubble treatment must be mentioned on the product label to be legal.

Products (herbicides) that are currently (as of 7/17/01) labeled for control of cotton stalks include:

- Harmony Extra by Dupont
- Banvel by Sandoz or BASF
- Dicamba DMA by Albaugh
- Savage by Platte Chemical
- Class LV6 by Cenex/Land O'Lakes
- D638 by Albaugh
- Phenoxy 088 by Terra Intl.
- Five Star by Albaugh

To be legal, applicators must have a copy of the label in possession when treating fields. Be sure to follow all label instructions for best results, including the addition of spray additives and carrier volumes. JEB

COTTON DEFOLIATION TIME IN SOUTH TEXAS

Cotton defoliation is underway throughout South Texas. In fact, many fields have been treated, harvested, and the stalks have been destroyed.

This harvest-aid season has not been business as usual. The crop has ranged from excellent to extremely poor depending not as much on producer technique as that of optimal rainfall, or the lack thereof. Yields, so far, have ranged from less than 250 lbs/ac to over 750 lbs/ac.

This year, it appears that even with the droughty conditions and small cotton plant structure, there are benefits to a two-shot defoliation process on most stripper fields. Fields where combinations of Dropp at 1:10 or slightly greater, followed seven days later by paraquat, has stripped and ginned well. Cotton grades so far have been reasonably good for all fields considering the growing conditions.

To date, several area-wide and county defoliation tests have been established. Check with your local county agricultural agent for the locations nearest your farm. Beltwide, replicated, thirty-five plus treatment trials have been established in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and in San

Patricio and Wharton Counties. In addition, several upper coast counties have established multi-treatment strip trials.

Be sure to check results of these tests and don't depend on last years data. For the best, most effective and economical treatment consider product choice, rate, and total treatment cost. There are many good products available and choosing the proper rate and chemical can be tricky. Check local results for 2001. JEB

CHECKLIST FOR PROFITABLE SORGHUM PRODUCTION

Most of the information contained in the enclosed leaflet is common knowledge, but there may be several ideas that might cause you to consider a different approach to growing sorghum. I continue to say that we must be "interested in sorghum" since we need it as a rotation crop. In that light, our activities have been greatly expanded. Much of the additional work is being funded by money from the Texas Legislature under the "PROFIT" (Productive Rotation on Farms in Texas) Program. The goal is to improve yields and profit from sorghum and other crops grown in rotation. I see a continued need for the entire industry to work to improve sorghum.

RDP

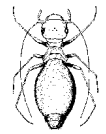
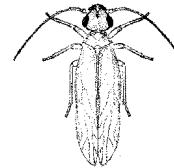
SNOUT BUTTERFLIES MIGRATING

In late summer snout butterflies migrate generally northeast in the Coastal Bend. When the migration occurs in large numbers, the event is noted by people. Sometimes these numbers are so high that people have to stop and clean automobile grills and windshields. The last large movement was in 1996 and we may see it again this year. Larvae of the species feed on spiny hackberry, a brushland species. There have been cases in Arizona where snout butterfly numbers were so great that the midday sun was noticeably blocked. One migration in Texas in 1921 averaged 1.25 million butterflies per minute across a front 250 miles wide; at the observation point it continued at that level for 18 days (1952 USDA Yearbook of Agriculture).

Insects make up for their small size by a short life cycle and sheer numbers. Don't underestimate the ability of insects to multiply. RDP

INTERESTING INSECTS

The insect order Psocoptera (psoco = rub small; ptera = wings) contain the psocids, which are small, soft-bodied insects, most of which are less than 6mm in length. Wings may be present or absent. There are about 340 species known from the U.S. and Canada. Most of the species found in buildings are wingless and because they often live among books or papers, are usually called booklice. The majority of the psocids are outdoor species with well developed wings. They occur on bark or foliage of trees and shrubs, under bark or stones, or in dead leaves. These psocids are sometimes called barklice. Food, depending upon species, includes algae, lichens, molds, cereals, pollen, fragments of dead insects and similar materials. The term "lice" is misleading since none are parasitic, although some are carried about by birds and mammals. Those in buildings rarely cause much damage, but are frequently a nuisance. Some species live under thin silken webs on tree trunks and branches (usually out of direct sunlight). RDP



Winged psocid

Winged psocid

Short-winged psocid

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". Another site is <http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~rparker>. Also pest management information is available at www.txaac.org.

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