



INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

Web site: <http://entowww.tamu.edu>

<http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~rparker/>

VOL. XXX NO. 6

ENTO/WS

June 9, 2005

- ✓ GENERAL CONDITIONS
- ✓ CROP TOUR UPDATE
- ✓ TAMU RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER, CORPUS CHRISTI FIELD DAY
- ✓ INSECTICIDES FROM THE PAST
- ✓ BOLLWORM CONTROL NECESSARY IN SOME FIELDS
- ✓ HEADWORM NUMBERS HIGH IN MILK TO SOFT DOUGH SORGHUM
- ✓ BOLL WEEVIL SITUATION SUMMARY
- ✓ INTERESTING INSECTS

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Much needed rainfall was received in many areas of the Coastal Bend. In some places it was a good amount, but in others the amount was limited. Corn and sorghum have suffered greatly with the largest area south of Robstown into Kleberg County. It is hoped that the rain will help some of these fields; in many the drought had already caused great losses.

The insect situation seems to be about normal for this time of year with concern about fleahoppers, mites, and garden webworms in cotton, and rice stink bugs, headworms, and midge in sorghum. Generally, the cotton insects listed are low in number. In sorghum, rice stink bugs seem to be lower than last season in some areas and higher in others. We expect to see increase in sorghum midge. Cotton should be monitored closely for changes in pest insect levels over the next two week period.

RDP

CROP TOUR UPDATE

Dates for the remaining crop tours are listed below for area counties and for The TAMU Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi.

Please contact the appropriate counties for details about their tours and to find out if any changes have been made in the date etc.

RDP

COUNTY		DATE
DeWitt	361/275-5132	June 14 - PM
Refugio	361/526-2825	June 15-AM&PM
Victoria	361/575-4581	June 16 - PM
Austin	979/865-5911, ext.170	June 20 - ?
Experiment Station-CC	361/265-9203	June 21 - AM
Calhoun	361/552-9747	June 21 - PM
Colorado	979/732-2082	June 22 - PM
Matagorda	979/245-4100	June 23 - AM
Jackson	361/782-3312	June 23 - PM
Fayette	979/968-5831	June 29 - PM
Wharton	979/532-3310	TBA
Fort Bend	281/342-3034	TBA

TAMU RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER, CORPUS CHRISTI FIELD DAY

Correction: In the recent correspondence about the field tour as to the start location, it will be from the TAMU Meaney Annex which approximately one mile west of our main complex. Parking will be in the cotton module storage yard next to the southwest corner of the Meaney Annex. Take CR 57 off HWY 44 and turn right on the next pavement (Wilmont St.). Following activities at the Meaney Annex, the tour will move to the main complex.

Currently there are nearly 90 field experiments underway on the two sites. The main advantage that I think to be gained by participants will be (1) general overview of the work, (2) better able to relate to the final results, and (3) ideas that you might have for future work.

TAMU-Corpus Christi Crop Tour Topics

1. Roy Parker - An overview of insect control experiments on corn, sorghum and cotton.
2. Steve Livingston - A. Water use relationships observed in sorghum date-of-planting studies.
B. Evaluations of RR, RR-Flex and LL weed control systems as compared to conventional cotton production systems
3. Carlos Fernandez - A. Evaluation of seeding rates in narrow-row and conventional row spacing in cotton. Effects on yield, lint quality and economic return.
B. Evaluation of plant protein enhancer Chaperone (alone and in combination with CoRon).
C. Evaluation of combinations of Ryzup, PGR-IV and CoRon for recovering after severe hail damage.
4. Wayne Smith - Development of new cotton varieties for South Texas
5. John Matocha - Tillage/rotation influence on cotton and corn; Phymatotrichopsis root rot on cotton
6. Charles Chilcutt - Bt toxin levels: corn and cotton pest control
7. Gary Odvody - Challenges in controlling sorghum downy mildew and head smut in South Texas sorghum.
8. Javier Betran - Breeding corn hybrids with reduced aflatoxin risk for South Texas
9. Bill Rooney - Breeding sorghum hybrids adapted to South Texas cropping systems. SDL

INSECTICIDES FROM THE PAST

The information which follows was from the 1897 Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture in an article titled, "Preparation and Use of Insecticides." Arsenicals listed were Paris green, Scheele's green, London purple, and arsenate of lead. These insecticides were listed for "biting and gnawing insects living or feeding on the exterior of plants." Paris green was composed of arsenic, copper, and acetic acid and cost about \$0.10/lb. Scheele's green differed from Paris green in that it did not contain acetic acid, was a very fine powder, and could be kept in suspension better than Paris green. It cost about half as much as the Paris green. London purple contained chiefly arsenic and lime with a cost of about \$0.10/lb.

Other insecticides included kerosene alone or as an emulsion mixed in various combinations with soap or sour milk. Kerosene was also used in various types of pans or upon cloth and insects were jarred from plants onto these surfaces. Kerosene was also used on stagnant water surfaces to control mosquito larvae. Fish oil, train oil (?), any grease, and cotton seed oil were listed primarily for use on domestic animals "to rid them of vermin, and fish oil is one of the best known repellents for the horn fly, buffalo gnat, and bot fly... the more strong smelling the better." These oils were also suggested for lice control on livestock, but "must be used carefully, or they may cause the hair to fall off." Pyrethrum was suggested for use to control household and garden pests, and could be "diluted with flour...puffed about rooms..." For scale insects, a resin wash made up of resin, caustic soda, fish oil and water was listed. Soaps were suggested for aphids and other soft bodied insects, and sulphur or bisulphide of lime was listed for mites. Fumigants listed were carbon bisulphide and hydrocyanic acid.

RDP

BOLLWORM CONTROL NECESSARY IN SOME FIELDS

Bollworm numbers increased in some fields to levels requiring treatment, but there were plenty of fields that did not require treatment at all in the Corpus Christi area over the past few days. It points out once again how important it is to check each field and not base treatment of large numbers of fields upon one or two fields examined that do need treatment. A time commitment must be made to determine which fields will need treatment. My guess is that bollworm egg lay could increase in cotton next week as moths emerge from sorghum.

Our vial tests to date indicate that at the current time, the bollworm is susceptible to pyrethroid insecticides. The higher rates should be used. I have noticed in sorghum where moderate levels of pyrethroid insecticide was used, some survival of bollworm (headworm). It might indicate additional difficulty controlling bollworm in cotton in about two weeks.

It appears that **tobacco budworm** numbers are very low in all areas at this time; this situation might change over the next two week period, although I am catching very few budworm moths in pheromone traps at the TAMU Research and Extension Center here at Corpus Christi.

RDP
