



INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

- ✓ **BOLLWORMS & TOBACCO BUDWORMS IN COTTON**
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BOLLWORMS & TOBACCO BUDWORMS IN COTTON

The majority of caterpillars being found in cotton are **bollworm**, but some **tobacco budworms** were brought into my office from Live Oak County. Here at the TAMU Research and Extension Center, no tobacco budworm moths have been captured in pheromone traps in weeks. Adequate field scouting must be carried out to determine if and when treatments need to be made for the bollworm. This means actual counts to determine population levels. Where worm populations exceed threshold, treatments should be made. "Insurance" treatment without damaging pest numbers is not correct procedure. Remember that insecticide use has an additional down side in creating a situation favoring additional pest problems. However, this must be accepted if pest numbers warrant treatment. RDP

TAMU RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER, CORPUS CHRISTI FIELD DAY

This is a reminder about the TAMU Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Corpus Christi, Field Crop Tour which will take place the morning of June 21 (Tuesday). Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. about 1 mile west of our main building and then south of HWY 44 just west of CR 57. A registration tent should be in view to the west as you travel south on CR 57; turn right on Wilmont St.

Research projects that have had or will have impact on Coastal Bend row crop farming will be highlighted. Nine stops have been selected to overview research that

is underway. A map of all research plots will be provided; details about experiments can be obtained from project leaders during or after the tour. The tour will conclude with a noon meal. See the following list of tour topics.

TAMU-Corpus Christi Crop Tour Topics

1. Roy Parker - Overview of insect control on corn, sorghum and cotton.
2. Steve Livingston - A. Water use relationships associated with sorghum planting date
B. Comparison of RR, RR-Flex and LL weed control systems with a conventional cotton weed control program
3. Carlos Fernandez - A. Effect of cotton seeding rates on yield, lint quality and economic return in both narrow-row and conventional row spacing
B. Effect of plant protein enhancer Chaperone applied to cotton alone or in combination with CoRoN
C. Evaluation of Ryzup, PGR-IV and CoRoN for recovery in cotton 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**

PYRETHROIDS ON BOLLWORM IN COTTON

There is currently a probable low to moderate level of resistance to pyrethroid insecticides, but that level is not as high as for the same period in 2004. It will be important to use pyrethroids at the high labeled rate on hatching eggs and two day old or less caterpillars. Closely monitor following treatment for field failures. Be prepared to switch to alternate chemistry, especially as we move deeper into the season. RDP

SORGHUM PEST NUMBERS DECLINING

As sorghum matures to the hard dough stage a decline in headworm numbers has been observed. Many sorghum fields exceeded treatment threshold levels for both headworms (corn earworm and fall armyworm) and rice stink bugs over the last few weeks. We were able to evaluate 8 insecticides on headworms over the past two week period. Generally, I believe higher rates of the pyrethroid insecticides must be used for the rice stink bug and headworms. Lannate has also been very effective, especially on the headworms. RDP

INTERESTING INSECTS

The social vespids (paper wasps, yellow jackets, hornets, mason wasps, potter wasps) construct a nest out of a papery material that consists of wood or foliage chewed up and elaborated by the insect. The colonies in temperate regions exist for just a single season. Only the queens overwinter, and in the spring each queen starts a new colony. The queen begins construction of a nest (or she may use a nest built in a previous year) and raises her first brood, which consists of workers. The workers then assume the duties of the colony, and thenceforth the queen does little more than lay eggs. The larvae are fed chiefly on insects and other animals. RDP

For more information contact:



Roy D. Parker
Extension Entomologist
10345 Agnes, Corpus Christi, TX 78406
(361) 265-9203, Fax (361) 265-9434

Stephen D. Livingston
Extension Agronomist

View our newsletter earlier on the internet at <http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~rparker>. Also pest management information is available at www.txaac.org.

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