

# INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

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### NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST UPDATE

Enclosed is a postcard to complete to remain on our mailing list or you can call (512) 265-9203 to provide the information. We need to keep addresses current and know of your interest in continuing to receive the newsletter. RDP

### NEW EXTENSION AGENT - IPM

Trey Bethke, Extension Agent - IPM, has been hired to replace Ray Huffman. His training was at Texas A&M University with a double major in entomology and agronomy at the BS level and he is completing a Master's degree in entomology. We are transforming the cotton scouting phase of his program more into that of a monitoring style where indicator fields will be scouted to provide a current local database on pests, natural enemies, and plant growth and development. The goal will be to place more emphasis on the applied research and demonstration aspects of the program. Primary focus will be cotton, at least initially. RDP

### TEXAS GULF COAST GRAIN HANDLERS CONFERENCE

Attached is the agenda for a grain handlers conference that is planned for Thursday, January 28 at the Wharton County Fairgrounds in Crescent (agenda and map enclosed). Most of you have already received notice about the program and the

request to preregister by Friday January 22 (\$10.00) or at the door (\$15.00). Even if you do not preregister, call the Colorado or Wharton County Extension office so that meal planning will be correct; telephone numbers are: (409) 732-2082 - Colorado County, and (409) 532-3310 - Wharton County. The Texas Department of Agriculture has approved 5 CEU credits for pesticide applicators. RDP

### NATIONAL SORGHUM CONFERENCES

The 1999 Sorghum Industry Conference and 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Grain Sorghum Research and Utilization Conference will be in Tucson, Arizona February 21-23. Hosts include the National Grain Sorghum Producers (NGSP) and the Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA). The joint meeting format allows all segments of the industry to share ideas. Sessions will be geared toward production agriculture. For registration details call the NGSP in Abernathy, TX, phone (806) 298-4501.

Grain sorghum producers in our region need to be involved with industry activities. We have few alternatives to sorghum as a rotation crop and must make the crop work for us. I believe that through a continued unified effort profitability, yields, quality and production risks can be improved. It will be a slow process but through a concerted effort, over time, progress can be made.

Incidentally, we still have a few copies of the proceedings of a 1997 conference "Grain Sorghum for the 21st Century: Working Together as an Industry." They are free as long as supplies last. RDP

### AT-PLANTING SOIL INSECTICIDE CONSIDERATIONS FOR SORGHUM

Counter (15G = 4 oz/1000 row ft or 20CR = 3 oz/1000 row ft), Furadan 4F (1.0 pt/acre on 38 - 40 inch rows), Lorsban 15G (4 oz/1000 row ft), Gaucho 480FS (8 oz/cwt seed) and planter box seed applied lindane products have provided economic returns in most Coastal Bend sorghum tests over the years. Counter, Furadan and Gaucho provide extended foliar control

due to their systemic action.

Lorsban and lindane are not systemic insecticides. Under very heavy pressure Counter provides better control of chinch bugs and possibly the greenbug and yellow sugarcane aphid. Gaucho is easy to use and was reduced in price for the 1999 season. Lindane seed treatments such as Sorghum Guard and Gammasan are low cost, provide good seed protection and nearly always provide a positive dollar return. We also continue to test the experimental seed treatment Adage produced by Novartis Crop Protection. Favorable results have been obtained with that product but a label has not yet been issued. RDP

**1998 MEXICAN CORN ROOTWORM TEST RESULTS**

Each year we evaluate soil insecticides for control of insect pests in corn. Results of a test to evaluate Mexican corn rootworm (MCR) insecticides conducted on the Donaldson Farm in Wharton County are provided below for your information. RDP

Treatment/ formulation	MCR damage		Yield bu/acre
	Visual rating <sup>a</sup>	Root <sup>b</sup> rating	
Counter 15G (8.0 oz/1000 ft)	3.0 b	2.06 c	47.7 a
Aztec 2.1G (6.7 oz/1000 ft)	2.7 b	2.64 bc	38.6 b
Force 3G (5.0 oz/1000 ft)	2.7 b	2.86 b	39.5 b
Regent 80WG (2.16 oz/acre)	3.7 b	3.19 ab	36.5 b
Gaucho 480FS (8.0 oz/cwt seed)	4.3 ab	3.11 ab	41.0 b
Untreated	5.7 a	3.75 a	26.0 c

<sup>a</sup> Visual damage ratings range from 1 = no damage to 6 = severe stunting and lodging.

<sup>b</sup> Root damage ratings range from 1 = no damage up to 6 = 3 or more nodes of roots totally destroyed (Iowa State University rating).

**SORGHUM PUBLICATION AVAILABLE**

Texas Agricultural Extension Service B-1220, "Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Sorghum" dated 6/98 is available from our office. It is also on the Internet and copies are generally available at County Extension Agent offices. Contact us for a copy. RDP

**INTERESTING INSECTS**

Did you know that there are 4 insect species for every other animal species on earth, that the smallest insects are 1/5 millimeter long, that the Coleoptera (beetles) are the largest order of insects numbering over 330,000 identified species and that there is a tropical walking stick that measures 13 inches long. RDP