



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 sites: <http://entowww.tamu.edu>

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

VOL. XXIV NO. 13

ENTOWS

June 14, 1999

IN THIS ISSUE

- COASTAL BEND IPM COTTON INSECT REPORT
- CONSULTANT REPORTS, ETC.
- WEEVIL & BEET ARMYWORM TRAP CATCH REPORT



COASTAL BEND IPM COTTON INSECT REPORT

Unfortunately, to my knowledge, no rain to report this past week anywhere in the Coastal Bend. Area cotton growers could really use a good 2-inch rain right now. This rain would fill out the bolls we have set and help out with a nice top-crop in some fields. Most of the area's grain and corn are to the maturity stage at which rain will no longer add to grain/kernel quality or weight. A number of producers began the grain harvest last week. It's an exciting time as this is when all your hard work should pay off at market.

Kleberg County. Much of the cotton in Kleberg County is either at or will reach physiological cutout this week. We even saw one open boll last week. Aphid abundance continues to be relatively light, with very few exceptions. Bollworm numbers were up quite a bit compared to previous weeks' counts. On 2,800 plants scouted in 28 fields, we found a grand total of 55 bollworm eggs and 48 bollworms. The highest percentage of eggs found was 14% north of Kingsville. The next highest percentages of worms found was 7% in 2 fields; one near the beach in southeast Kleberg County and the other just northwest of Ricardo. In a field just west of Ricardo we found 9% worm damaged squares for the highest damage rating found this past week. We are starting to see a few occasional pests that tend to show up late in the season. These include cabbage loopers, fall armyworms, and lygus bugs. At this time there is not much to worry about regarding either the loopers or armyworms, but we did find lygus bugs widely scattered across the county and in abundances of up to 18%. Lygus injury results in shedding of squares and small bolls, stunted growth, and boll deformation. Treatment thresholds for lygus are based on sweep net sampling (20-30 per 50 sweeps).

Nueces County. Every field in Nueces County has reached the bloom stage and several fields are at cutout holding mature bolls. With 1 exception, aphids were light

throughout the county this past week. One field near SPID had moderate aphid abundance. Several fields in the county are still in the fleahopper damage window. This being said, fleahopper numbers were down in general, but 1 field was at 36% fleahoppers and was to be sprayed. Other susceptible cotton fields were holding 16-24% fleahoppers or less. Suffice it to say that the bollworm numbers are up dramatically this past week. On 1,200 cotton plants checked in 10 fields, we found a grand total of 79 bollworm eggs and 50 bollworms. The highest number of eggs found was 16% in a field just north of True Gin. The highest number of worms found was 18.6% (28 worms on 150 plants) in a Bt cotton patch out near Orange Grove. The most worm damaged squares found was 14% in a field near Petronila. As in Kleberg County, we are starting to see a few late-season occasional pests; including lygus bugs, loopers, stinkbugs, and beet armyworms. In no case did we see numbers of these pests to worry about.

San Patricio County. The situation in San Patricio County is similar to that in Nueces County with most cotton at or near cutout. Aphids were very light across the county. Bollworm egg and worm numbers were up quite a bit. On 900 cotton plants scouted in 11 fields in the county, we found a grand total of 37 bollworm eggs and 17 worms. The highest number of eggs was 10% in a field just south of Sinton. The highest number of worms found was 6% in a field just west of the Taft Gin. The most worm damaged squares found was 9% in a field near Coastal Plains Gin near Mathis. Again, we saw a few late-season occasional pests in San Patricio County, but not in numbers to worry about yet. These included lygus bugs, beet armyworm, cabbage looper, and leaf perforators.

Please remember that what we find in the 10-12 cotton fields across your county does not imply that you should be finding the same things in your fields.

EDB

CONSULTANT REPORTS, ETC.

This morning (June 14) I received a couple of calls from local consultants reporting 40-50% bollworm eggs in cotton fields west of Banquete. Others are reporting the majority of cotton in Nueces County with 10-30% eggs. Similarly, last week I received several calls from consultants who were finding bollworm numbers much greater than we were in IPM cotton fields. One consultant, reporting from the area west of Bishop, Driscoll, and Robstown, was finding 60-80 bollworm eggs per 100 plants and 15-16% worms. Similarly, a consultant in San Patricio County was finding bollworm

eggs and worms in slightly fewer numbers, but still well within thresholds for making an insecticide application. In fact, some have estimated that as much as 90% of the cotton now reaching cutout in western Nueces County has now been treated with a pyrethroid insecticide. In general, consultants are telling me that the worm situation is not good and could be getting worse. The recent egg-lays and worms are very, very spotty. A consultant told me last week that he had one field with about 50% eggs in it, but the field across the street had none. Go figure! Another thing that has come to the forefront this cotton season is that our scouts and your consultants are finding eggs being laid down in the plant rather than in the terminals. It is well known that as cotton plants begin to stress and cutout and the weather turns hot and humid that bollworm moths will sometimes deposit their eggs on the fruit and stems lower on the plant. Producers looking at their own fields need to remember this and take the extra time to scout entire cotton plants, including all the bracts and bloom tags. Also, it appears that older, more mature fields in the area are being spared to a great extent, while younger cotton (perhaps just blooming) is really being hit the hardest. Those with cotton not yet blooming to only a few weeks into bloom should be prepared for the possibility of a massive egg lay.

EDB

SORGHUM HARVEST-AID

Beyer Brothers Farm near Odem, (San Patricio County) - Treatments were applied to 29.8% moisture sorghum on June 2, 1999. Eight days after treatment (June 10th) the following sorghum moistures were recorded:

Treatment	Rate/ac (pts.)	Moisture (%)
Roundup Ultra	1.5	20.6
Roundup Ultra	2.0	20.0
Sodium Chlorate	6.0	21.1
Check	-	24.0

All treatments were applied with a flat fan XR8002 nozzle on 19 inch centers in 12.5 gallons of solution. The test sorghum hybrid was Pioneer 8313. Preliminary results indicate some drying advantage for the use of a harvest-aid. Make sure sorghum is physiologically mature before applying any treatment. Do not over-treat acres. Timely harvest after treatment is a must in order to avoid excessive lodging.

JEB

WEEVIL AND BEET ARMYWORM TRAP CATCH REPORT

Weevil trap captures stabilized a little in area districts compared to last week when trap captures were up across the Coastal Bend. **Since last week** Kingsville trap captures went from 30 to 29 (down 4%), Robstown down from 251 to 197 (down 21.5%), and Sinton went up from 462 to 662 (up 43%). While the increased weevil numbers in the Sinton district appear alarming, **since last year** weevil numbers are down in that district 88% (3,571 weevils caught this week last year), Robstown down 92% (2,403 weevils last year), and Kingsville down 88% (246 weevils last year). So things are still looking good on the weevil front. Finally, beet armyworm trap captures across the Coastal Bend are down an average of 68% this week compared to this week last year.

EDB

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