



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

VOL. XXIV NO. 14

ENTO/WS

June 21, 1999

IN THIS ISSUE

- THANKS TO COASTAL BEND IPM PROGRAM SUPPORTERS
- COASTAL BEND COTTON INSECT REPORT
- WEEVIL & BEET ARMYWORM REPORT
- HEAT UNITS FOR COTTON - CORPUS CHRISTI
- BEWARE OF DATANA CATERPILLAR AND WHITE GRUBS
- SORGHUM WEATHERING
- SORGHUM HARVEST-AID 2ND RATING

inches toward the beach. Nueces County had similarly heavy rains, accumulating over 2.5 inches over the period 6/13 to 6/21. The county with the most rain was San Patricio County, reporting accumulations of almost 8 inches since 6/13 west of St. Paul. Rains over the last 2 days (6/19-6/20) in this area have each been of approximately 3 inches. Other weather stations in San Patricio County report accumulations since 6/13 of 2.99 inches near Old San Patricio (1.23" on 6/19) and 4.36 inches near Midway Gin (2.98" on 6/20). I personally heard that the Mathis area had received about 5 inches of rain and the Portland area somewhere around 3.5 inches. Generally, everybody got rain, but the final totals vary widely.

For the cotton producers, this rain can be good or bad depending on the stage of your cotton. Those with cutout cotton will see this rain put weight on your bolls. Producers with cotton not yet at cutout will likely see your plants start shedding squares and small bolls. The reasons for this are twofold: 1) the recent rains have left our soils saturated resulting in a lack of oxygen in the soil and 2) we've not had good solar radiation now for about a week and a half resulting in reduced photosynthetic efficiency in our cotton cultivars. Another concern associated with the recent heavy and continuous rains and cloudy weather is the potential development of sucker heads in sorghum.

Kleberg County. Not much left to talk about concerning insects across the Coastal Bend except for the worm situation which continues to develop quickly. This past week in 27 fields on roughly 2,675 plants we found a grand total of 69 bollworm eggs and 65 worms. A field north of Kingsville had the greatest density of eggs at 10%. The greatest percentage of worms was 6.25 in a field located east of Ricardo near the uranium plant. Finally the greatest percentage of worm damaged squares was 16% in a field east of Ricardo near the beach. Aphids continue to be very light across the county. We are still seeing a few late season pests including: lygus bugs as high as 12%, leaf perforator, and cabbage looper (the latter 2 very, very light).

Nueces County. There is a moderate aphid infestation and a rapidly developing bollworm situation. Late-season aphid infestations should be monitored closely. Heavy infestations of greater than 50 per leaf for an extended



THANKS TO COASTAL BEND IPM PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

To begin this week's issue I would like to thank those Coastal Bend Gins that have come forward with financial contributions to fund the Coastal Bend IPM Cotton Monitoring Program. Your support makes collecting information pertaining to cotton development and insect pests possible. Information collected is used to provide a more informative, useful newsletter. To date, sponsoring gins include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gulf Coast Cooperative | Gregory Gin Co. |
| Edcot Coop Gin | West Portland Gin Inc. |
| True Coop Gin Co. | Taft Gin & Seed Co., Inc. |
| Coastal Bend Gin | Hartzendorf Gin |

We looking forward to 100% participation from area gins and believe your contributions should be considered an investment in the area's cotton industry. EDB

COASTAL BEND COTTON INSECT REPORT

Big rains to report over the past week and a half. Kleberg County weather stations both report over 3 inches of accumulated rain during the period from 6/13 to 6/21. Other reports are from 4 inches near Ricardo and Kingsville to 1.5

period can cause leaves, squares, and small bolls to shed. Aphids can also cause early boll opening resulting in incomplete fiber development and their honeydew (excrement) stains cotton, makes it sticky, and facilitates fungal growth. These factors conspire to reduce lint quality and make harvest and processing more difficult. This past week a number of our IPM fields got the pretty large egg-lays we'd been expecting for several weeks. In 9 fields on 1,000 plants checked this past week we found a grand total of 109 bollworm eggs and 14 worms. The greatest density of worm eggs was 30% in a field near the Corpus airport and another field west of Robstown had 21%. It appears to us, at least in the IPM fields, that the greater number of eggs is not translating to greater numbers of worms. Each of the aforementioned fields had only 1% worms. The greatest density of worms found this past week was 4% in a field near Violet. Worm damaged squares were lower this past week with the highest percentage being only 7. Lygus bugs were the only late-season pest found this week in Nueces County, but were extremely low.

San Patricio County. No insect pests to report on in San Patricio County except bollworm activity. Aphid abundance is extremely low right now. This past week in 11 fields on 900 plants we found a total of 68 bollworm eggs and 22 worms. The greatest percentage of worms was 16% found in a field near Gregory Gin. Another field near Coastal Plains Gin had 15% eggs. Again, so far more eggs has not led to more worms as each of these fields had only 4 and 3% worms, respectively. The highest density of worms found was 8% in a field near Taft Gin. The most worm damaged squares found last week was 18% in the same field where 16% eggs were found (near Gregory Gin). Not much in the way of late-season pests to report from San Patricio County. We did see a few lygus bugs, beet armyworms, and 1 saltmarsh caterpillar this past week.

Finally, the area's cotton crop with few exceptions is at or very near cutout. Many very mature fields will soon be beyond the damage window for cotton bollworms and tobacco budworms. Your crop should be safe from these pests at 350 accumulated DD60s past cutout. On average this is about 16 days. Some fields, having matured out of this damage window, will cease to be scouted by the IPM Program within the next week or 2 (particularly in southern Kleberg County).

Please be reminded that what we find in our 10-12 fields in your county does not necessarily mean you should be finding the same things in your fields. Insect activity, as usual, is very, very spotty and varies widely. EDB

WEEVIL AND BEET ARMYWORM REPORT

Boll weevil activity this reporting period (June 7 to June 13 [Week 24]) generally continues to be on the rise over the previous reporting period (May 31 to June 6 [Week 23]). Since Week 23, weevil trap captures have risen 44% in

Robstown, 165% in Kingsville, and gone down 0.005% in Sinton. However, since last year at this reporting period numbers continue to signal great success. Since last year weevil trap captures have declined 78% in Robstown, 67% in Sinton, and 73% in Kingsville. Beet armyworm trap catches are down across the region an average of 35% and we continue to not find beet armyworm hits (egg lays) in any of the area's cotton fields. EDB

HEAT UNITS FOR COTTON - CORPUS CHRISTI

Date	Daily H.U. ¹	Acc. H.U. ¹	Date	Daily H.U. ¹	Acc. H.U. ¹
Mar	-	250.7 ²	6/10	20.8	1456.8
Apr	-	428.3 ²	6/11	22.4	1479.2
May	-	565.1 ²	6/12	22.4	1501.6
6/1	21.7	1265.8	6/13	21.1	1523.7
6/2	20.9	1286.7	6/14	18.1	1541.8
6/3	21.5	1308.2	6/15	18.7	1560.5
6/4	22.0	1330.2	6/16	18.2	1578.7
6/5	22.6	1352.8	6/17	20.8	1599.5
6/6	21.9	1374.7	6/18	19.3	1618.8
6/7	21.0	1395.7	6/19	19.3	1638.1
6/8	19.7	1415.4	6/20	17.0	1655.1
6/9	20.6	1436.0			

¹ H.U. = heat units. Accu. H.U.= accumulated heat units

² Monthly accumulation

BEWARE OF DATANA CATERPILLAR AND WHITE GRUBS

I received a call from a pest control operator in Corpus this past week regarding the recent heavy infestations of Datana caterpillars and white grubs. This individual, with 29 years experience in the pest control business in this area, said the current Datana caterpillar outbreak is the heaviest he's ever seen in the area's live oak trees. These caterpillars are hairy (not real densely though) and grey with dark stripes running down their sides. They can be up to 2 inches long and about as thick as a pencil. These pests can effectively strip a tree of its foliage. Control can be achieved with common insecticides labeled for caterpillars. Homeowners should remember the importance of getting good spray coverage. This can be most easily accomplished with a high pressure sprayer.

Regarding white grubs, which can be A serious pests in lawns, this individual mentioned this was earliest he's ever seen infestations of these pests. In some local yards he was finding as many as 4 per dollar bill sized area of sod underneath turf. White grubs feed on the roots of grasses and their presence should be suspected if areas of dead grass appear in your yard. To check, just dig around this area with a hand spade, shovel, or hoe. Common insecticides labeled for white grubs can be purchased at any hardware store. EDB

SORGHUM WEATHERING

As this is being written, rain continues to fall over much of the Coastal Bend area. Amounts ranging from 3.5 to over 6 inches have been reported over the past week. While the total amount in itself may not cause undue concern, the long duration (last Thursday through today) with overcast skies can be problematic.

Distinct types of sorghum hybrids vary differently. In addition, maturity of the grain during adverse weather can make a difference on its susceptibility to weathering. While greener grains (20-28% moisture) tend to sprout before more mature kernels the more mature kernel is more subject to weathering damage such as bushel weight loss and molds. Since the weathering experience of the 1976 season, much information has been gathered about the feeding and storage qualities of weathered, sprouted grains. For further information refer to TAES report PR-3434, March 1977, Weathering Effects on Quality of Grain Sorghum in the Coastal Bend, Matocha et. al. Previous investigations have shown feeding quality of weathered grain to be acceptable for cattle and certain other livestock.

Remember, there are no products that prevent grain sprouting. Only Mother Nature can do this. Beware of entrepreneurs that may capitalize on an unfortunate situation (if it develops) and try to convince unsuspecting producers otherwise. JEB

SORGHUM HARVEST-AID 2ND RATING

An update on the sorghum harvest-aid test (B265) near Odem is included. It is important to note lodging for certain treatments at 13 days after plots were sprayed. Keep in mind this plot is experiencing the same excessive rainfall as is found over much of the surrounding area at this time. JEB

**Effect of harvest-aid treatments on sorghum
B265
Beyer Brothers Farms
Odem, Texas**

Treatment	Rate/ac (pts.)	8 DAT		13 DAT		
		Moisture (%)	Dessication (%)	Moisture (%)	Dessication (%)	Lodged (%)
Roundup Ultra	1.5	20.6	55.0	14.4	66.7	13.3
Roundup Ultra	2.0	20.0	83.3	14.7	88.3	21.7
Sodium Chlorate	6.0	21.1	65.0	15.3	80.0	1.7
Check	-	24.0	--	16.4	--	1.0

Remarks: Application was made on June 2, 1999 and initial sorghum moisture was 29.8%. 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.

JEB

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.