



INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

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COASTAL BEND COTTON INSECT REPORT

Only light and scattered rain was reported across the Coastal Bend this past week. No rains of more than about 0.5 inches were reported from any of the area's weather stations. Producers are ready for a dry-down period with 90 degree heat and sunshine. This weather pattern would allow the cotton crop to finish out and let us get the combines back in the grain fields. We have heard of a few sorghum fields in San Patricio County having some problems associated with seeds sprouting in the head. Additionally, much of the area's cotton is dropping squares and small bolls and may need a last shot of Pix to prevent rank growth.

Kleberg County. Every field in Kleberg County that we know about is now into cutout. The worm situation continues to get a little worse, however much of the county's cotton is starting to move out of the bollworm/tobacco budworm damage window. Out of 2,725 plants checked in 27 fields we found a grand total of 74 bollworm eggs and 100 worms. The greatest percentage of eggs found was 8% east of the Coop at Ricardo. The most worms found in any field was 9% in a field also east of Ricardo. Worm-damaged square counts remain

relatively light with the most being 12% in a field southeast of the Coop toward the beach. To our knowledge, only 1 field (not including the King Ranch acreage) has been sprayed this season for worms. And, in that field only a strip was sprayed. No fields were in definite spray situations last week. With any luck, it appears the vast majority of Kleberg County cotton will escape the worms this season unscathed.

Late season pests starting to show in very light numbers include saltmarsh caterpillar, cotton square borer, and beet armyworm. Lygus bugs have started occurring in heavy numbers (20-30%) in some fields north and east of Kingsville. Making the decision to spray this late in the season for lygus can be difficult. Lygus bugs can cause cotton to drop large squares and small bolls, so treatment decisions must factor in current fruit set and recent small boll shed. Also, think about how much of the lygus bug-susceptible fruit that you might spend money on to protect, will actually be taken to the gin.

Finally, several fields in Kleberg County will be scouted for the last time this week. Fields will be dropped as cotton matures bolls up in the plant (say 2/3 of the way up the plant) or as bolls open. With recent rains, we will also consider the amount of regrowth that occurs in each field in our decision to drop fields.

Nueces County. With few exceptions, most fields in Nueces County are at or near cutout. Worm density continues to be a hot topic of discussion and, like Kleberg County, numbers are up. On 1,050 plants scouted in 9 fields this past week we found a grand total of 124 bollworm eggs and 45 worms. The greatest density of eggs found was 45% in a field of Bt cotton near

Orange Grove. In this same field we found no worms and 0.6% worm damaged squares. The most worms found was 14% in field under the water tower in Violet. This field has since been sprayed. Nine percent was the greatest density of worm damaged squares found this last week in Nueces County. This was in a field northwest of Bishop. Late-season pests found included lygus bugs (0-7%) and cabbage loopers.

One field in Nueces County was dropped from the scouting program this past week. Others will follow as we approach open boll in a number of fields.

San Patricio County. Every IPM program field in San Patricio County is now well into cutout. Like the other Coastal Bend counties, worm numbers are up. On 800 plants scouted in 10 fields this past week, we found a grand total of 77 bollworm eggs and 27 worms. The greatest percentage of eggs and worm damaged squares found was 35% and 12%, respectively, in a Bt cotton patch near Coastal Plains Gin. This same field had 1% worms. The most worms found was 6% in 2 different fields; one near West Sinton and the other near Taft Gin & Seed. Late-season pests we are finding include the saltmarsh caterpillar, beet armyworm (0-6%), and lygus bugs (0-8%). Much of the counties cotton should quickly be escaping the bollworm/tobacco budworm damage window. EDB

LODGING SORGHUM

The Extension Service is responsible for conducting field studies and reporting the results in a timely fashion. Results of such studies conducted using proper scientific procedure (replication and randomization) stand on their own merit. In recent newsletter issues results of a sorghum pre-conditioning test conducted near Odem were reported, with the last issue providing more current information (see issue 15 dated June 22, 1999). In addition to this test, Monsanto has many observations and state in their literature **“that no lodging will occur with the Roundup Ultra.”**

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This statement is based on producer observation and experience with the product on large acreage. I reported what was observed in the Odem test where the sodium chlorate and check plot plants were standing upright, whereas the Roundup Ultra treated plots contained varying degrees of lodging. We reported anything leaning more than 45° as a lodged plant, even though many of those should be harvested normally with conventional equipment. The most recent data collected (26 days after treatment) indicated the presence of charcoal rot in the following percentages of plants: Roundup Ultra (1.5 pt/acre) 58.9%, Roundup Ultra (2.0 pt/acre) 43.8%, sodium chlorate 0.4% and check 0%. Obviously charcoal rot increases lodging potential.

Be advised that the Odem test results contradict claims made by Monsanto in their 1999 literature. The Odem results represent one test at one location from a replicated experiment. It shows that under a certain set of conditions lodging can occur. JEB

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	6/13	21.1	1523.7
Apr	-	428.3 ²	6/14	18.1	1541.8
May	-	565.1 ²	6/15	18.7	1560.5
6/1	21.7	1265.8	6/16	18.2	1578.7
6/2	20.9	1286.7	6/17	20.8	1599.5
6/3	21.5	1308.2	6/18	19.3	1618.8
6/4	22.0	1330.2	6/19	19.3	1638.1
6/5	22.6	1352.8	6/20	17.0	1655.1
6/6	21.9	1374.7	6/21	18.3	1673.4
6/7	21.0	1395.7	6/22	20.6	1694.0
6/8	19.7	1415.4	6/23	21.1	1715.1
6/9	20.6	1436.0	6/24	21.5	1736.6
6/10	20.8	1456.8	6/25	22.4	1759.0
6/11	22.4	1479.2	6/26	23.2	1782.2
6/12	22.4	1501.6	6/27	23.9	1806.1

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

² Monthly accumulation