

## WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about  
Integrated Pest  
Management in  
Hockley and  
Cochran Counties  
from Kerry Siders.



**July 11, 2012**  
Vol. 17 - No. 6



Partners with Nature

### CROP AND PEST SITUATION

**Cotton** ranges from 7 leaf stage to 17 true leaves with square set very good +85%. I am seeing more and more blooms every day. Generally, it will be after July 15 or so before we see most cotton beginning to bloom.

Cotton insect pests remain very quiet. In the IPM Scouting Program I have noted only a hand full of fleahoppers and Lygus. To-date none of these infestations have reached a threshold to justify treatment.

Beneficials numbers are surprisingly good in some fields; though limited food source is available. Pheromone trap catches indicate that we should anticipate a fairly normal cotton bollworm year - some chronic numbers scattered across the area from now through first part of August then an acute run from mid to late August.

Weeds seem to be the most dominate pest at this time. A long varied list of weed species noted throughout both counties. If you need help identifying a weed and coming up with a control plan give me a call. Remember, these weeds serve as host to many of our cotton pests.

Cotton has made excellent progress over the last few weeks. Obviously there have been some major hurdles and most likely some of those will continue. Many acres are just now nearing bloom. These fields will be going into bloom with an range of 8-9 nodes above white bloom. This is a fairly typical value for our more recent cotton varieties. I still have an optimistic outlook for most area cotton production. As long as the water holds up or we receive some good measurable precipitation I will remain optimistic.

**Peanuts** continue to bloom with pegging and pod set going strong. We are about 7-14 days ahead of where we were at last year at this same time. Irrigation is critical at this point in peanuts. It is critical not only for the plant to grow but also it creates an environment which is conducive for peg penetration of soil. If soil surface is too hot and dry pegs will not develop properly, and hence no pod. No insect pests have been noted in peanuts. I have not seen much in the way of pathogens either. The dry environment will help reduce the incidence of foliar diseases. Weeds continue to be challenging. There are excellent herbicides labeled for peanuts. Just remember though that the options become fewer and more costly as the season progresses.

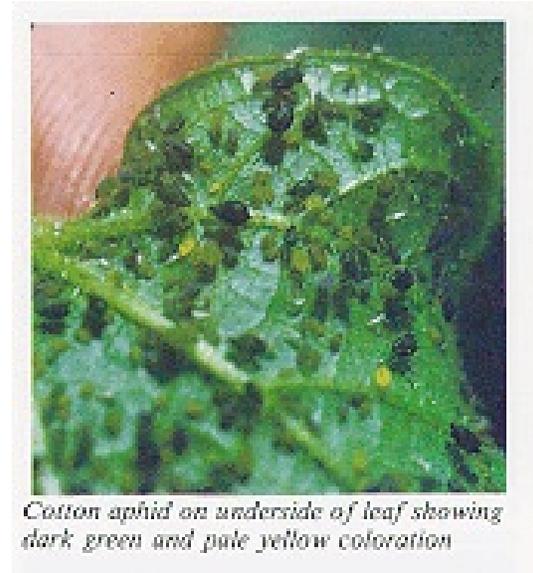
## Aphids in Cotton

Three species of aphids, or plant lice, feed on cotton plants: the cotton aphid, the cowpea aphid and the green peach aphid. Cowpea aphids are shiny black with white patches on the legs and can be common on seedling plants.

Aphid infestations can occur from plant emergence to open bolls. Cotton aphids range in color from light yellow to dark green to almost black. The immature or nymphal stage looks like the adult stage, only smaller. Most adults do not have wings. Aphids usually are found on the undersides of leaves, on stems, in terminals and sometimes on fruit. Heavy and prolonged infestations can cause leaves to curl downward, older leaves to turn yellow and shed, squares and small bolls to shed and bolls to be reduced in size, resulting in incomplete fiber development.

Honeydew excreted by aphids can drop on fibers of open bolls. A black, sooty fungus sometimes develops on the honeydew deposits during wet periods. Fiber from such bolls is stained, sticky and of lower quality, resulting in difficult harvest, ginning and yarn spinning. Natural control by unfavorable weather, predators, parasites and pathogens can be effective in holding populations below damaging levels. Sometimes aphid numbers increase to moderate or heavy levels and then decline for no apparent reason.

Management and decision making. Although high populations can develop prior to bloom, most economically damaging infestations generally develop later in the season during the month of August. A total of 60 leaves divided between the top, middle and lower portion of the plant should be sampled from plants across the field to determine actual infestation levels. Insecticidal control of cotton aphids should be delayed until infestations exceed 50 aphids per leaf.



## Suggested Insecticides for control of aphids in cotton.

Insecticide	Formulated Amount per acre
Intruder® 70 WP	0.6-1.1 oz
Lorsban® 4E	8-32 oz
Bidrin® 8E	4-8 oz
Bidrin® 8E + Ovasyn® 1.5E	4-8 oz + 0.67-1.33 pt
Bidrin® 8E + Curacron® 8E	4-8 oz + 2-4 oz
Provado® 1.6F	3.75 oz
Trimax® 4F	1.5 oz
Lannate® 2.4 LV	12 oz
Parathion 8E	4-6 oz
Curacron® 8E	8 oz
Centric® 40 WG	2 oz

## SEE YOU ON THE RADIO



IPM radio show on Fox Talk  
950 AM Wednesdays from  
12:30-2:00



WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE is a publication of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley and Cochran Counties.

Editor: Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM

Contact information: 1212 Houston St., Suite 2 Levelland, TX 79336  
(806) 894-3150 (office),

638-5635 (mobile), or 897-3104 (Fax)

[ksiders@tamu.edu](mailto:ksiders@tamu.edu) (E-mail),

<http://hockley-tx.tamu.edu> (County website)

[www.tpma.org](http://www.tpma.org) (TPMA website)

Educational programs conducted by Texas AgriLife 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 Texas AgriLife Extension is implied.

The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Commissioners  
Courts of Texas Cooperating