

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



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Partners with Nature

General Situation

Cotton ranges from still dry seed, dusted in to dryland acres; to irrigated acres with 8 true leaves and beginning to square. Rain this week was highly variable, accompanied by some hail, but mostly high damaging winds. No insect pests have been noted this week so far. Weeds have been the major pest this week.



Wilting pigweed on right, little or no affect on left.

Weed resistance has begun to show itself this season. A few fields, which have been treated with glyphosate at least twice, have Palmer amaranth or pigweed which is escaping control. It is important that 3-6 days following an application of glyphosate that you go back and evaluate effectiveness on pigweed. If you see pigweed wilting, yellowing etc., typical symptoms of

glyphosate injury which is a good thing. However, if you see pigweed with no symptoms you've got problems. The other things which plays into this is residual herbicides. We must utilize residuals. Such as Dual or Staple, or some layby treatment. This takes the pressure off the continuous use of glyphosate. Be prepared also to cultivate or hoe in some situations.
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Look closely center left for flush of pigweed, no residual herbicide.

Time to Assess Rhizobium Nodulation in Peanut

By Dr. Calvin Trostle, Extension Agronomist

Good nodulation on peanut is essential to reaching your peanut yield potential. Despite the widespread use of nitrogen (N) fertilizer in West Texas peanuts, good Rhizobium nodulation remains the most economical means to supply N needs in the plant. Planting practices, inoculant choice (liquids usually nodulate more than granular; seedbox powders have never worked in our Extension trials), planting at least 1.5" deep, soil moisture at planting, and subsequent irrigation will affect the degree of nodulation a farmer achieves.

Extension recommends that producers assess nodulation about 6 weeks after planting in advance of mid-season N applications. High early season N applications at planting can greatly reduce nodulation as peanut plants are 'lazy' and will not nodulate as much if ample N fertilizer is available instead.

An early season assessment, however, in the High Plains may provide guidance for adjusting mid-season N targets. Producers may sample nodulation by digging plants (don't pull them) at 3 to 4 locations around a field, about 10 plants per location. Determine the nodules per plant. Nodules may still be white inside (not yet fixing N), but once the pink and red color forms then the nodules are supplying N to the plant.

Here's our simple West Texas index to help gauge your nodulation at 5-6 weeks after planting:

Nodules per plant Rating

0-5 Poor

6-10 Fair

11-15 Good

16-20 Very good

21 or more Excellent

If nodulation is good early on it will likely continue to increase toward peak nodulation in August. If nodulation is low, however, our experience suggests that it is not going to improve much. Farmers with high nodulation early on can probably reduce mid-season N applications. For example, if you have 20 nodules per plant, and you planned to apply 80 lbs. of N per acre mid-season, you may be justified in reducing mid-season N fertilizer levels by 20-40%.



What if I have little nodulation? This is the second reason of why Extension recommends you 'scout your nodules.' If early season nodulation is low, we would want to know this immediately rather than find out in August. It is too late then to adjust management. The later in the season N applications are made the more likely pod rot may occur. For poorly nodulated fields, knowing this early means we have an opportunity to ensure N can be added to the field. Mid-season use of liquid inoculant through the pivot is not expected to enhance nodulation for peanut. So pursue N fertilization of poorly nodulated peanuts. Once that's done ask yourself what might have happened to contribute to minimal nodulation and see if you can minimize that potential problem in next year's peanuts.

Peanuts are doing well. Now is the time to evaluate nodulation. I am seeing the first blooms as well. No insect or disease pest noted this week. As with cotton the weeds would be the pest of the week. If you put down a pre-plant and at-plant herbicide weed control should be excellent right now. If you are seeing escapes now you need to employ some further strategies soon. These few escapes now can indicate huge problems in a few weeks. May need to use both a post and pre emerge herbicide as Butyrac and Dual. Contact me with your situation and we'll walk through it and see which direction to go.

Grain sorghum is also doing well in terms of little or no pests issues right now.

SEE YOU ON THE RADIO

IPM Radio Program Ag Talk on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00.

AgriLife Extension in Hockley County Report on KLVT Levelland, High Plains Radio Network, radio 1230 AM, Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

Texas AgriLife Extension radio reports on All Ag All Day AM 900 KFLP Floydada



Cotton plant at 4 true leaf stage, with fifth true leaf visible in terminal.

Some slight leaf distortion on leaf 4, from wind damage. Otherwise very healthy plant.

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