WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about Integrated Pest Management in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties from
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June 28, 2019

Vol. 24 – No.6

CURRENT SITUATION

Insects are becoming more active in area cotton fields. We are seeing cotton fleahoppers moving around in most fields, and grasshoppers are increasing in their presence as well. The fleahoppers are most concerning because we are just on the verge across many acres of just beginning to square. We cannot afford to lose any early squares. We do not have that kind of luxury in time to compensate as we might in some previous years. Many of these fleahoppers may currently be interested in some weed species, like whiteweed (aka silverleaf nightshade). As we attempt control of many of these weeds as weather is allowing it will take away that harborage and force the fleahopper to the young cotton, causing loss of squares.

Cotton ranges from 2 true leaves to 11 true leaves, with match-head size squares. Square set is good (+90%) in those scouting fields which are squaring (<10%). A few fleahopper induced square losses have been noted in a couple of fields to date and those are being treated. I would like to see most fields squaring by this time next week. I say that because that should then give that field time to begin blooming before the end of July.

Most **peanuts** are blooming now. No worm feeding damage has been noted to date, though various moths and millers are working the fields. Weeds are priority for most, followed by getting fertilizer going and water started. Many want to cultivate, which is a very good idea before peanuts run and or peg. Just be careful not to pitch soil to the crown of the plant. Soil covering the crown can increase incidence of pathogens in that area.

My priority list for this week is:

- ✓ **Fertility** -what will it take to achieve a realistic yield goal? Seize the moment to fertilize. Do not delay, as it only delays the crop and can lead to disease and other pest problems.
- ✓ **Irrigation** -most plants have rooted as well as they can, do not stress these cotton plants as they move into squaring, you can induce square shed. So, irrigate if you do not receive a rain.
- ✓ **Weed control** – hopefully you have your applications of a post-emerge plus a residual herbicide out to carry us through July.
- ✓ **Plant map** - what is the plant telling you? Will it need a plant growth regulator (believe it or not we have cotton that needs a PGR).
- ✓ **Insect scouting** - never let your guard down, watch fleahoppers in cotton.

Cotton Fleahopper

The insect pest which threatens our cotton crop as we enter this critical first square is the cotton fleahopper. The past few years we have not had much problem with this pest, but as we have seen with other plant bugs so far this year, we need to be extremely vigilant. Adult fleahoppers are about 1/8 inch long and pale green. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and are light green. They move very rapidly when disturbed. Adults move into cotton from weed hosts when cotton begins to square. Both adults and nymphs suck sap from the tender portion of the plant, including small squares. Pinhead size and smaller squares are most susceptible to damage.

Adult cotton fleahopper

Management and decision making. The decision to apply insecticide should be based on the number of fleahoppers present, the squaring rate and the percent square set. If conditions are conducive to the rapid build-up of cotton fleahoppers in alternate hosts, scouting intervals should be shortened (i.e., monitor fields every 3 to 4 days).

During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 85 percent square set. Starting with the third week of squaring up to first bloom, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 75 percent square set.

Cotton fleahopper nymph (immature)

As plants increase in size and fruit load, larger fleahopper populations can be tolerated without yield reduction. In most years treatment is rarely justified after first bloom. However, occasionally, when cotton plants do not set an adequate square load during the first 3 weeks of squaring, fleahoppers can prevent the square set that is needed for an adequate crop.

Product Name/ Common Name	Active Ingredient/s	Formulated Rate (fl oz or oz/A)	lb AI/A	Acres Treated per gallon/lb	Signal Word	Insecticide Class (*IRAC Groups)	Re-entry Interval	Pre-harvest Interval
Cotton Fleahopper								
Vydate C-LV 3.77	oxamyl	8–32	0.125–0.5	16–4	Danger	Carbamate (1A)	48h	14
Orthene 97	acephate^	4	0.244	4	Caution	Organophosphate (1B)	24h	21
Acephate 90 Prill	acephate	4.4	0.248	3.64	Caution	Organophosphate (1B)	24h	21
Intruder Max 70WP/Strafer Max	acetamiprid^	0.6–1.1	0.025–0.05	26.67–14.55	Caution	Neonicotinoid (4A)	12h	28
Carbine 50WG	flonicamid	1.7–2.8	0.053–0.089	9.41–5.71	Warning	Flonicamid (29)	12h	30
Centric 40 WG	thiamethoxam	1.25–2.5	0.0313–0.0625	12.8–6.4	Caution	Neonicotinoid (4A)	12h	21
Alias 4F	imidacloprid^	1–2	0.0313–0.0625	128–64	Caution	Neonicotinoid (4A)	12h	14
Bidrin 8	dicrotophos^	4.0–8.0	0.25–0.5	32–16	Danger	Organophosphate (1B)	6d	30

Online Dicamba Training

If you were unable to attend one of the many Extension sponsored Auxin Training opportunities, you might want to try one of these online/computer based dicamba trainings:

http://www.syngenta-us.com/herbicides/tavium-application-stewardship
https://training.roundupreadyxtend.com/
https://www.engeniastewardship.com/#/training

Private Pesticide Applicators Training Set for 2019 Hockley County

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Levelland on the third Thursday of every month. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individual must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the trainings in Levelland. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Office 1212 Houston Street, Levelland (4 blocks west of courthouse on Houston). There is a $60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location. Future PAT Trainings:

- July 18 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- August 15 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- September 19 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- October 17 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- November 21 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- December 19 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of training.

See You On The Radio

Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

900 KFLP AM
All Ag, All Day!

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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