

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about  
Integrated Pest  
Management in  
Hockley,  
Cochran, and  
Lamb Counties  
from  
Kerry Sidors

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## Current Pest and Crop Situation

**Cotton** ranges from 8 nodes above white flower (very late cotton) to 0 nodes above white flower (blooming out the top). Ideally your cotton would be the latter, because we are at or very near “last effective bloom date” for most of our production area. Cotton production is a gamble, I know that. I know we often roll the dice and pray that this late cotton will have time to finish out. Anything is possible. However, think about this. The plant is driven by heat units, yes solar accumulation and obviously some other factors, but the correlation of physiological milestones in a cotton plants life require known amounts of accumulated heat units. As we move into late summer and closer to Fall we lose day length and temperature. But hey, if you have late cotton what choice do you have. Let it run its course, right? Well, first off on this late cotton I would be very hesitant to spend much if any money on it. Possibly water some till we get out of this heat in a week or so, but not much more than that.

**Cotton aphids** can be found in most cotton fields at this time. Some fields have reached threshold of 35-50 aphids per leaf and treated successfully with an aphicide. In general, fields with fewer than 3 nodes above white have averaged less than 5 aphids per leaf and are not building and even decreasing. Whereas, fields with more than 4 nodes above white flower continue to hold or build in numbers. You must scout regularly to determine the direction of these aphids in each individual field. Beneficial insects are present in good numbers in some fields and are helping. Parasitic wasps are really building and doing their thing as well.

I hesitate to say that **bollworms** and **stinkbugs** have subsided because I do not want to give anyone an excuse to stop scouting these pests for a while longer. I will say that normally when scouting early in the mornings we kick up many millers/moths as we walk through a field. I am just not seeing that much activity currently.

**Cotton Insect Guide:** [https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2019/08/2019-Cotton-Insect-Control-Suggestions\\_ENTO090.pdf](https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2019/08/2019-Cotton-Insect-Control-Suggestions_ENTO090.pdf)

**Sugarcane aphids** have been found now in Lamb and Hockley Counties. I have not seen them in Cochran yet. If you have grain sorghum be sure to scout fields. The infestations I've seen this season have been in whorl stage, pre-boot. Worm activity in milo has been light so far.

# Glyphosate Update and EPA's Recent Position Statement

By Dr. Scott Nolte, State Extension Weed Specialist, College Station

## Glyphosate "Safety"

Many of you are aware of the increased focus on the use and "safety" of glyphosate and the questions that have been raised about suspected links to cancer. In March 2015, IARC classified glyphosate as group 2a "probably causes cancer" and since then multiple regulatory agencies (Health Canada, EFSA, FAO, WHO & US-EPA) took another look at the safety data and all reiterated their findings that glyphosate **does not** pose a carcinogenic risk to humans.

## Current lawsuits

However, since that time three trials have gone to court, starting last fall and the most recent in May, and all sided with plaintiffs involving allegations that glyphosate caused cancer. To date, 18,400 suits have been filed. These cases have been highly publicized and to the general public it can appear to be strong evidence that glyphosate is to blame. For many involved in Agriculture there may be a desire to quickly defend agricultural products and process. However, as scientists and extension personnel we need to be able to provide balanced and unbiased facts to our clientele based on scientific evidence.

## Recent Position Statement – EPA & WSSA

Last Thursday August 8<sup>th</sup>, the US EPA took a stronger position than in the past by stating that "labels claiming glyphosate is known to cause cancer" are false and that California's proposition 65 labeling requirements for products like glyphosate misinforms the public about the risks they are facing. It was stated that "EPA will no longer approve product labels claiming glyphosate is known to cause cancer – a false claim that does not meet the labeling requirements of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* (FIFRA)". The statement also reinforces the need for science-based responses, "It is irresponsible to require labels on products that are inaccurate when EPA knows the product does not pose a cancer risk. We will not allow California's flawed program to dictate federal policy," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "It is critical that federal regulatory agencies like EPA relay to consumers accurate, scientific based information about risks that pesticides may pose to them."

WSSA (Weed Science Society of America) followed on Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> with a position statement in support of EPA's actions.

You can view the full statements via the links below:

EPA News Release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-provide-accurate-risk-information-consumers-stop-false-labeling>

WSSA News Release: <http://wssa.net/2019/08/wssa-position-on-glyphosate/>

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