

WEST
PLAINS
IPM
UPDATE

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

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Current Crop and Pest Situation

Cotton ranges from early bloom with more than 5 nodes above white flower (NAWF) to past physiological cutout with less than 2 NAWF. The area cotton crop reflects that 2/3 of fields have less than 2.5 nodes above white flower (NAWF) currently, with the remaining third ranging from 5 to 3 NAWF. Ideally, we would literally be blooming out the top this next week. I do think most acres will achieve this goal. This gives us little risk of these fields reaching full maturity and taking full advantage of the growing season.

We did have a short run on cotton bollworms last week in a few non-Bt and Bollgard II fields. This week however, only a few large worms can be found with no new infestations. We are not finding cotton aphids, Lygus are in very low numbers, with no immatures noted in cotton. Most likely most insects have been lured away into grain sorghum possibly corn in some areas. I would continue to scout for these pests for at least another two to three weeks.

We have noted squares up to small bolls being shed in some cotton fields this week. Looking at this fruit on the ground most if not all of this is natural shed, not from insect damage. This natural adjustment generally always occurs at this time of season, especially when we have years with high fruit retention rates early. So, this is just a natural adjustment in what the plant can hold and allows bolls to achieve full size and quality in relation to what the plant can provide.

Peanuts continue to be healthy and generally disease free. But as the weather changes be vigilant for signs or conditions for disease development. Leaf spot would be one I would first be looking for. Worm activity has been light in foliage feeding. Keep an eye on this though.

Grain sorghum should be scouted for sugarcane aphids, but also other pests as midge, other species of aphids, and head-worm as well.

You or someone must scout. We are at a critical period for all crops.

Do not drop the ball now as we go deeper into the second half.

Phytogen Innovation Trial

A Phytogen cotton variety trial was planted back on May 22 at the Roland Zamora Farm south of Sundown. The field is on FM 303 approximately 3.5 miles south of the intersection with FM 41. The field sits on the east side of the road. This trial is replicated three times in the field with ten different varieties. The plots are marked in the first rep near the road. Feel free to drive by and look.

Other trails have been planted with other seed companies. I will let you know when those plots are marked for viewing.



SOIL MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

Impact of standing wheat residue after it has served its purpose. The picture below shows good dryland cotton in the forefront, and only the top of standing wheat residue in the back.



The picture to the right shows the same field looking down the row. Again, in the forefront you can see good dryland cotton, but notice how the wheat residue has either deteriorated or never developed well in this area. However, as you look further down the row you can see heavier wheat residue. The cotton is much smaller and not well developed. The standing wheat in this area “wicked” moisture out of the ground and robbed the cotton of precious moisture. Versus, in front where the wheat was not present or had deteriorated, the moisture was utilized by the cotton. Wheat residue is wonderful protection for young cotton, but once it has served its purpose it is best to break or severe the wheat from the ground and prevent this loss of moisture.



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