

WEST  
PLAINS  
IPM  
UPDATE

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

Aug. 20, 2020

Vol. 25 – No. 14

### Current Crop and Pest Situation

Not much has changed over the last couple of weeks in **cotton** other than the physiological state of the cotton itself. However, I would still not let your guard down for a while longer, especially in cotton which has late growth of squares and blooms, non-BT cotton, or may have excessive nitrogen levels. Some fields, the earliest planted, are at the point of maturity that most insects are of no consequence. Most cotton will need to be monitored for at least another 10 days maybe through the first week in September for later cotton. Cotton is generally safe from most pests when approximately 400 heat units (about 20 days) past the 5 nodes above white flower have been accumulated. Cotton aphids would be one insect which could develop up through boll opening. I doubt if this will be the case though this year, as no cotton aphids have been found in area fields.



Cotton irrigation is still very critical with very limited if non-existent rain showers. Cotton is still using anywhere from 0.15" to 0.25" per day (1.0"-1.75"/week), down from near 0.30" per day at the peak just a few days or a week or so ago. Evapotranspiration has decreased considerably though, which helps. Refer to my August 6, 2020 West Plains IPM Update issue #12 page 2, for detailed discussion on cotton irrigation needs and termination.

Continued page 2

Continued from page 1.

**Weeds** continue to be a concern for some either after a recent shower or irrigation. Be careful in your enthusiasm to kill these weeds. First ask if these weeds are just cosmetic at this point or will their seed production haunt you in the future (i.e. morningglory, marestail) or cause you harvest problems. I am seeing many fields being hoed. I applaud your effort, albeit costly. Most likely those weeds represent a real hurdle to harvest. So, chop away. However, on young flushes of weeds, again be practical. In some situations, you might just save your money for a good harvest aid program and be prepared to do a much better job next year with residual herbicides. Good luck.

## CURRENT COTTON PLANT MAPPING

As I was scouting on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>, I took the picture below of a random cotton plant in a good drip field near Whiteface. It was a very good stand of cotton, in terms of consistent population, so it might be hard to distinguish which plant I am referring to here.



Continued next page



So, let me help. The picture below is the plant I was referring to on the previous page. I cut it and took it back to the truck. I removed all leaf material and laid it out so you can see the growth pattern.



Here are some stats on this plant:

- Plant height 27"
- Total nodes 20
- Whole plant internode length 1.35"
- Top 4 nodes internode length 1.8"
- First fruiting branch node 7
- First position bolls 10
- Second position bolls 8
- Third position bolls 2
- Nodes above white flower 1
- One vegetative branch with 2 bolls

I am not going to say this is a perfect plant, or that all those bolls will make it to the stripper basket. However, if you had 40,000 of these per acre your approximately just shy of 5 bale cotton. This field had not gone through much natural shedding of fruit yet. So realistically it will hold about two-thirds of this fruit. So, let us recalculate and say you consistently have 15 bolls on a consistent 40,000 plant population, and since this is good irrigated cotton it would take conservatively 300 bolls to make a pound of lint. So,  $(15 \times 40,000) / 300 =$  **2000 lbs lint!**

## PEANUTS SITUATION

**Peanuts** are generally doing well but will need these warm temps to continue to finish out well. Stay on top of leaf spot, pod rot, and other diseases. Though the risk factors for disease have been extremely low, weather conditions can change overnight and cause this risk level to increase. Irrigation will need to continue for a while unless rain is received. My suggestion on irrigation right now is frequency not volume. Many fields have good moisture below surface, however, if we do not keep the canopy and soil surface environment moist then those last pegs trying to form a pod will have a difficult time.



## Required Training for Certified Applicators of Paraquat Dichloride

With the approaching harvest season, be reminded of the new law which requires that all applicators of paraquat dichloride (paraquat = Gramoxone, Firestorm, ParaZone etc.) first be a licensed applicator. Secondly, that they go through an online training. This is mandated by EPA. It requires this be done before mixing, loading, and/or applying paraquat. The training provides important information about paraquat's toxicity, new label requirements and restrictions, and the consequences of misuse. The EPA-approved training module can be accessed here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>  
This training was developed by paraquat manufacturers as part of EPA's 2016 risk mitigation requirements and has been approved by EPA.



**SEPT  
9  
2020**  
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**WEST  
TEXAS  
AGRICULTURAL  
CHEMICALS  
INSTITUTE**

*Annual Meeting  
going VIRTUAL in  
2020!*

**Speakers**

- 📌 Dale Scott
- 📌 Peter Dotray & Wayne Keeling
- 📌 Suhas Vyavhare, Kerry Siders & Blayne Reed
- 📌 Terry Wheeler
- 📌 Cecilia Mondlova Santana
- 📌 Agronomic Panel - Glen Ritchie, Murilo Maeda & Katie Lewis

**Topics:**

- Section 18
- Mitigation if we don't get Section 18 on Dicamba
- Insect Panel / IPM Update

**Registration Fee**

**\$50**

**REGISTER ONLINE**

1) Please visit:  
<http://bitly.ws/9pRv>  
to register.

2) Once registered, you will receive a invitation to join the Zoom Webinar

**Topics:**

- FOV4 Update, Seed Care, Nematode & Disease Update
- Updates on Graduate Research

For more information, contact Corey Thompson.  
<http://www.wtaci.org/>

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



*Partners with Nature*

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

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 A&M AgriLife Extension is implied.

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