

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

Aug. 20, 2021

Vol. 26 – No. 10

## Current Situation

**Cotton** ranges from 5 nodes above white flower to hard cut-out. Ideally cotton will be blooming out-the-top by now; because we have reached that point when the odds of a bloom developing into a quality/yield contributing boll will drop considerably over the next week. In fact, we are seeing some more mature fields beginning to shed squares and small bolls as a final adjustment in what the plant can naturally hold. Be sure though that this fruit shed is natural and not being induced by Lygus or bollworm. Especially in Bollgard II or no technology. Most fields are generally pest free currently. Occasional pockets of cotton aphids, tarnished plant bugs (Lygus), and bollworms can be found. In the case of aphids and worms the beneficials have played a large role in keeping these pests in check. Continue to scout for another twenty days or so. By September 10<sup>th</sup> majority of cotton acres should have 400 some heat units accumulated on the last bolls set, making them relatively safe from most insect damage. Irrigation has been where most questions are being posed. I will admit I get conservative with irrigation as we move into the last days of August and would rather err on the side of being too dry than too wet going into September. We have already had our chance of making quantity, now it is a matter of achieving quality through maturity. The last bolls set during this time need to be relatively stress free for 20 days (approximately September 10-14<sup>th</sup>). So, if the plant recovers quickly from any wilting during a +90-degree day then those last bolls formed should mature properly. After 40-45 days (approximately September 30<sup>th</sup>) the plant can nearly go into permanent wilt, and it should not have an impact on yield or quality. So bottom line – be very careful irrigating here out.



**Grain Sorghum** is all over the board maturity wise. Do not get too concerned about whorl feeding worms. However, once that head develops then worry about worms. If you are shaking out more than 1 worm (3/8" or larger) per head, then you are going to have to deal with them. The sugarcane aphid continues its march in all directions and building to threshold levels in area fields. We are finding yellow sugarcane aphids, and cornleaf aphids, so do not confuse the three.

**Corn** remains mostly pest free with no major mite infestations being found.

**Peanuts** have leaf spot consistently, and the weather has been very conducive for its spread.



*Sugarcane aphid on grain sorghum leaf.*

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## UPCOMING EVENT

### WTACI 69th Annual Conference Set for September 14

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute (WTACI) will host their annual conference on Tuesday, September 14, at the FiberMax Center for Discovery, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support research and education programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include weather risk in production agriculture; pesticide laws and regulations; carbon cycling and storage in semi-arid environments; predators, pest and cotton; new herbicide technologies for sorghum; an update on cotton diseases in 2021; a Washington DC update; an agronomy panel; and crop protection research symposium. A detailed list of presentations and speakers will soon be available at <http://wtaci.org>.

The conference is approved for 7 CCA credits, and 7 TDA CEUs are pending at this time.

Pre-registration is available online at <https://wtaci.eventsmart.com>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and must be paid at the time of registration. On-site registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. the day of the conference and will cost \$95 for attendees. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee. For booth and sponsorships opportunities, contact Nathan Foster at (806) 893-7316 or [nfoster@wilburellis.com](mailto:nfoster@wilburellis.com).

Contact Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or [shawn@plainscotton.org](mailto:shawn@plainscotton.org) for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration, contact Whitney Curry at (806) 792-4904 or [whitney@plainscotton.org](mailto:whitney@plainscotton.org).

**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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