

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

July 30, 2021

Vol. 26 – No. 7

## Current Crop and Pest Situation

Let me first start with **grain sorghum and corn**, since it is relatively easy to summarize right now. I have not confirmed sugarcane aphids (SCA) being found on grain sorghum in Lamb, Hockley, or Cochran Counties. We continue to find grasshoppers along field margins. In young whorl stage corn and milo feeding in the whorl is common but not severe or treatable. I would encourage producers to monitoring late planted grain on a regular basis from here out for SCA, midge, worms, and spider mites.

**Peanuts** are doing very well. So far, an excellent pod set has been noted in all scouting fields. Larvae feeding on foliage has been noted but not at treatable levels. Leaf spot, pepper spot, and limb rot have not been found yet, but changing weather may change that. With the age of the peanuts, weather pattern and irrigation frequency a preventative fungicide would be highly recommended. Weeds continue to be challenging. 2,4D-B with some residual like Dual has been common choices. Please call if questions.

**Cotton** ranges from 1/3 grown square (not yet blooming) to 6.5 nodes above white flower. Ok, so we are behind, in terms of growth and development on most cotton acres, and no you never really make up lost time. However, I do think we can still have a good cotton crop. Yes, we will need very good heat units to accumulate over the next two months, and some other factors to cooperate. I remain optimistic though. Ideally, we would have everything blooming now, and setting bolls. Currently only 50% of area fields are in bloom.

I have set aside fleahoppers in most all scouting fields now. Cotton aphids have been the most consistent concern of late. We are finding colonies of aphids now, not just solitary winged aphids. Fortunately, lady bugs and lace wings are cleaning up these aphids in most situations. However, this is just the leading edge, and we need to be vigilant. Also, many of you are just now fertilizing. This one reason why I have been harping on getting fertilizer out before the end of July. Two things happen with late fertilizer on cotton – first it can delay cotton maturity, and second aphids love this late excessive nitrogen. For more information on cotton aphid management and their control see: [https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2020/03/Cotton-aphid\\_ENTO074.pdf](https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2020/03/Cotton-aphid_ENTO074.pdf)

### My priorities this next week are:

1. **Keep up with crop water demands, we are nearing peak use in flowering cotton, all peanuts and flowering grain.**
2. **Wrap up all fertilizing, with exception of some light fertilizer in irrigation water and late milo.**
3. **Keep close watch on aphids, Lygus, cotton bollworms/headworms over next few weeks; and especially sugarcane aphids. Give me a call if you find them.**
4. **Maintain our good square set going into flowering on late cotton and maintain a good boll set with limited damage and losses.**
5. **Be proactive on peanut diseases.**

## Private Pesticide Applicators Training

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private **Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Levelland on Wednesday, August 4th**. 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 individuals **must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior (Tuesday 3rd)**. The training will **begin promptly at 1:15pm at the Extension Office 1212 Houston Street, Levelland**. There is a **\$60 fee** for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

*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.*



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## MID-SEASON COTTON GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

*With Kerry Siders, EA-IPM*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Hockley County

**@ 1212 Houston Street, Levelland, TX 79336**

**8:30am, Thursday, August 5, 2021**

For crop consultant workers, farmers and their workers, County Extension agents and their interns, and any agricultural related worker.

No cost, no food, no CEU's



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

**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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