WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

July 13, 2023

Vol. 28 – No. 8

CROP AND PEST SITUATION

Cotton ranges from 7 to 14 true leaves with square set/retention averaging a good +85%. I am just now starting to see first bloom in the more advanced fields. Generally, it will be after July 20 before we see cotton beginning to bloom, if not later in a good majority. Just considering our last effective bloom date (the date in which we can say with a high percent chance that a bloom will result in a harvestable boll) ranges from August 10-15, from Morton to Ropesville. So, if you do not begin to bloom until August 1, this gives you about 12 days of good bloom period, or time for about 4 first position bolls to be formed. In that scenario yield is limited. Versus a field which begins to bloom on July 15 has about a 28-day effective bloom period, which can result in ~9 first position bolls. This is not counting 2nd or possible 3rd positions in either case.

Cotton insect pests remain quiet. In the IPM Scouting Program I have noted only a hand full of adult fleahoppers. To-date none of these infestations have reached a threshold to justify treatment. Products listed for fleahoppers include: Vydate, Orthene 97, Acephate 90 Prill, Intruder Max/Strafer Max, Carbine, Centric, Alias, or Bidrin. https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2018/03/ENTO075.pdf Beneficials insects and spider numbers are surprisingly good in some fields, though limited food source is available.

Peanuts have been blooming strong with pegging following strongly as well. Pods are beginning to swell and form. Irrigation is critical at this point in peanuts. It is critical not only for the plant to grow but also it creates an environment which is conducive for peg penetration of soil. If soil surface is too hot and dry pegs will not develop properly, and hence no pod. No insect pests have been noted in peanuts. I have not seen much in the way of pathogens either. The dry environment will help reduce the incidence of foliar diseases. Weeds continue to be challenging. There are excellent herbicides labeled for peanuts. Just remember though that the options become fewer and more costly as the season progresses.

Sorghum remains mostly insect free. A few cornleaf aphids have been found with accompanying beneficials. Very little if no whorl feeding has been noted in early planted milo. Weeds have been challenging here as well. See an excellent article from Dr. Brent Bean on page 3.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

IPM COTTON SCOUTING & MAPPING CLINIC SERIES

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Cos. IPM Program

Opportunity to learn or refresh how to scout for pests and how to map the cotton plant.

1 hour IPM - TDA CEU

Cotton Scout & Map School #3 July 21, 9-10 am

Pin location: *https://goo.gl/maps/U54fgze4yGp9HUJM7*

At the Britten Pointer Field, 1.8 mi. south of Littlefield on west side of South Hwy 385 across from CR 324, near Electric Sub-station.

Cotton Map & Harvest Aid School #4

August 25, 9-10 am

Barker Research Farm, Morton

If questions contact Kerry Siders at 806 638-5635

CROP AND PEST SITUATION Continued from page 1.

Weeds continue to be the most dominant pest currently. A long-varied list of weed species noted throughout the area, with Palmer amaranth still at the top. If you need help identifying a weed and coming up with a control plan, give me a call. Remember, these weeds serve as host to many of our crop pests.

On another cotton issue that I am seeing and am concerned about as we move into another very hot period is this heavy wheat stubble which served a great purpose back a few weeks ago as protection from the various elements, mostly wind. Now however, it can be a determent to the cotton in that intact stubble can wick moisture from the soil. I would encourage you to somehow break or sever that stem/straw from the roots. Using a sweep or knife to undercut this will help, or I have even seen stalk chopper units moved into the row middle and used to lay that stubble down breaking that continuum of straw and roots, limiting the wicking effect. Call if questions.

Postemergence Weed Control in Sorghum By Dr. Brent Bean, Sorghum Checkoff Agronomist, 7/10/23

In grain sorghum, it is always recommended to apply a preemergence herbicide to control weeds before they ever emerge. If postemergence weed control is needed, there are a number of active ingredients to choose from for broadleaf weed control. In regard to grass control, we now have three active ingredients that can be used with herbicide tolerant hybrids that contain the Double Team, iGrowth or Inzen traits. The following is a brief description of each herbicide and how they are used:

Atrazine. Atrazine has an added advantage when applied postemergence because not only is it effective on small emerged broadleaf weeds, but also provides preemergence activity. Soil restrictions often prevent preemergence use of atrazine in sandy, high pH or low organic matter soils due to the potential for crop injury, but these restrictions do not apply to postemergence application. Growers, however, should check for any crop rotation restrictions that might apply.

Clarity® (dicamba) or 2,4-D amine. Clarity applied at 8 ounces per acre or 2,4-D applied at 1.0 to 1.5 pints per acre are effective treatments on most broadleaf weeds. Risk of crop injury is an issue with Clarity or 2,4-D, and yield reduction can occur even when physical injury symptoms are minimal. To reduce the risk of crop injury, Clarity or 2,4-D should be applied after all sorghum has emerged but before the height exceeds 8 to 10 inches. The addition of surfactants and other adjuvants with Clarity or 2,4-D are not recommended because they tend to increase crop injury. Weeds less than 4 inches tall are much easier to control than larger weeds. **Consider applying these at reduced rates, but in combination with other products, especially atrazine or Peak**.

Atrazine + dicamba or 2,4-D + bromoxynil. A combination treatment of one qt atrazine + 2-4 oz dicamba or 1 pt

2,4-D amine + 1 pt bromoxynil can be an effective treatment. These rates can be adjusted based on the size of the weeds and potential risk of atrazine carryover.

Starane® Ultra, StareDown™, Others. An alternative to Clarity and 2,4-D, is fluroxypyr, which is safer to use on sorghum. The product has good activity on kochia, morning glory species and a few other broadleaf weeds and is often used in combination with other herbicides.

Huskie® FX. This product contains the HPPD active ingredient pyrasulfotole plus bromoxynil and fluroxypyr. Huskie FX should only be used in areas free from HPPD-resistant weeds. Though most effective on small weeds, when necessary, growers can use Huskie FX as a rescue treatment on larger weeds. The product can be applied to sorghum plants up to 30 inches tall or before flag leaf emergence. The addition of a low rate of atrazine plus an adjuvant provides the best control. Temporary sorghum leaf spotting and yellowing likely will occur with the use of Huskie FX, but sorghum will typically rebound from these injury symptoms within a few days.

Peak®. This herbicide is very safe on sorghum plants up to 30 inches tall. However, Peak, a sulfonylurea herbicide, is not as effective on larger broadleaf weeds. Peak should not be used where ALS-resistant weeds are present. Typically, Peak is most effective when applied at a reduced rate with a mix of Clarity or atrazine. Crop rotation restriction to cotton or soybeans is 18 months in many regions.

Ally®XP + 2,4-D. Ally is labeled to be applied postemergence in sorghum at a twentieth of an oz but **MUST** include 2,4-D in the mix. The 2,4-D has a safening effect that prevents injury to the sorghum from the Ally. Use 8 oz 2,4-D amine. Atrazine can be included in the mix to provide additional post activity as well as soil residual activity. Do NOT add and adjuvant to this mix or increased crop injury may occur.

Permit®. For fields infested with nutsedge, Permit is a good choice. The product also is effective on cocklebur, sunflower and a few other broadleaf weeds, but not effective against pigweed. A good premix to consider is **Yukon®**, which combines Permit with dicamba. Yukon at the 4 oz and 6 oz rates, contain the equivalent of 4.4 oz and 6.6 oz of dicamba (Clarity), respectively.

Aim®. Aim is a burn down product that is best used on small weeds less than 2 inches tall.

Facet® or Quinstar®. The active ingredient quinclorac, is primarily used where bindweed is a problem in sorghum, although it has reasonably good activity on small annual grass.

FirstAct™, ImiFlex™ and Zest™. These products are used in the new herbicide tolerant sorghum hybrids with the Double Team, igrowth and Inzen traits, respectively. Visit the companies or the Sorghum Checkoff website for more information on their use.

Dual Magnum®, Warrant® and Outlook™. These are Group 15 herbicides that only have preemergence activity, but can be safely applied to emerged sorghum. These products will provide soil activity and prevent new weeds from emerging.

For a more complete list of products, growers can visit the United Sorghum Checkoff Program Weed Control Site and scroll to the bottom of the page and follow the links to various state extension weed control guides**. Growers should always read and follow label instructions and consider regional and crop rotation restrictions when using herbicides**. Common trade names were used in this document, but many of active ingredients of these products may be sold under additional trade names.

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)
ksiders@tamu.edu (E-mail)

TEXAS IPM

Partners with Nature

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work is supported in part by the Crop Protection and Pest Management, Extension Implementation Program [award no. 2021- 70006-35347/project accession no. 1027036] from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.