

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



July 19, 2023

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## CROP AND PEST SITUATION

**Cotton** ranges from 8 to 16 total nodes, with square set remaining near +80%. The heat is responsible for some square loss with fleahoppers taking some as well. I would really be paying attention to fleahoppers as they continue to move in and out of fields. I saw some first blooms the end of last week (7/14). A field is not considered to be “in-bloom” until +50% of the plants have blooms. As it is now most fields are going into bloom with 8.5 nodes above white flower (NAWF). This heat, if it continues, will drive cotton plants to bloom sooner, lowering this value of going into bloom to less than 8 NAWF. The stress of this heat causes the plant to hasten the reproductive period and sacrifices all other growth to produce seed quickly. This is a survival mechanism. If temperatures would moderate, making irrigation go further, and we have our fertility in place to encourage continued growth (vegetative and reproductive) then we can maintain a good yield expectation. Ideally, we would not get to 5 NAWF until August 5<sup>th</sup>. If a plant does go to 5 NAWF too soon it will not achieve its full potential and take advantage of the full season. I always try to stress that ***we make cotton in August.***

So, last week I discussed the issue of heavy wheat residue can cause soil moisture to be lost even after the death of the wheat plant by a wicking action. Dr. Wayne Keeling pointed out that we really need to deal with this back when the wheat was planted. Dr. Ray White, post-doc with Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Lubbock has done a fair amount of work on how much wheat is enough to produce a cover to protect young cotton and not have this heavy residue which can get you in trouble. Ray’s work indicated that no more than 30 lbs./acre of wheat seed is sufficient for good cover for cotton. I will remind you of this in the fall again.

So, priorities for the next few weeks:

1. *Water as efficiently as possible (deliver water near to the ground). If heat continues, do not share water by towable systems, or shared wells. Cut back to your best.*
2. *Get fertilizer out now, there is no advantage of waiting. It only delays progress and maturity.*
3. *Continue PGR applications if you have good water, fertility, and a well developing plant. Otherwise, wait till temps moderate and then resume PGR plans.*
4. *Scout, scout, scout! Do not let insects rob you of precious fruit.*



# 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**



# WEST TEXAS AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS INSITUTE

71ST ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

Scottish Rite Building | Lubbock, Texas

*Stay tuned for registration details!*

**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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