

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



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Current Situation

Well, the Good Lord has been answering prayers. First, we needed rain. Done. Then we needed it to clear up and warm up. Done. However, it has been too much of a good thing here of late. We have been 100 degrees plus the past several days, and averaging 25+ heat units (DD 60's) per day. Fortunately, the cotton rooted down very well into the moisture from back in May and early June and is suffering through this heat well, not sure about the wind though. Generally, producers have been starting up irrigation systems. The forecast is calling for more moderate temperatures as we move into July and a possibility of some rain which we have not seen on the western portions of the Plains in several weeks.

A great majority of our cotton acres went in the last week of May through the first 10 days of June. So, very little cotton is yet to square. Earlier planted cotton which survived all sorts of challenges has 1-4 first position squares, with very good retention (+90%). No fleahoppers have been found on cotton causing issues based on my scouting efforts. I can find fleahoppers though in field margins hanging out on silverleaf nightshade. So, be vigilant and scout frequently. We want to achieve better than 70% square retention after the first 3 weeks of squaring. I will mention that I did find a solitary cotton aphid in a terminal down around Ropesville today (6/28).

Based on plant mapping information our internode length is very tight (average less than 0.5"). If we moderate temperatures back into the mid 90's, receive some rainfall, and you have fertility in place, I might anticipate more rapid growth over the next few weeks. Since we are a few weeks behind ideal growth development, I would highly recommend a light dose (4-8 oz) of a plant growth regulator (mepiquat chloride) over the next few weeks (by July 15). This can help with fruit retention, balance out vegetative growth with reproductive growth, and can enhance maturity at end of season. Also, if we do have a late growth spurt it will be easier to manage having already built some PGR ppm into the plant.

Dr. Calvin Trostle and Kristie Keys have updated the Hailout, Replant, Late-Plant Guide for the Southern High Plains of Texas: [Hailout-Replant-LatePlant-Guide-TX-S-Plains-Trostle-Keys-2023.pdf \(tamuinsects.org\)](https://www.tamuinsects.org/agriculture-audio-updates-home.html)

IPM Audio Report from Kerry Siders, Blayne Reed, John Thobe, and Keegan McCollum here on the Texas Southern High Plains. Other areas of the state are available as well.

Click on the following link to sign-up for weekly reports:
<https://www.texasinsects.org/agriculture-audio-updates-home.html>

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