

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



May 5, 2023

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CURRENT SITUATION

The drought continues even though some isolated rain showers have been received the last few days. Here in Levelland we have not received a single weather event where the precipitation measured more than 1.0" since October of 2022. That is 200 days since we have received appreciable measurable rain.

Soil temperatures are generally good now for planting cotton. You must remember though that dry soil does not hold temperature as consistent as a moist soil. So, where you are or have been applying pre-irrigation, those fields will have a soil temp which should be steadily increasing with increasing daytime temps. Versus dryland acres the soil temp has fluctuated when our nighttime temps have dipped down into the low thirties. As we move deeper into May this will change of course. Our nighttime temps will most likely not dip below 55 from here on out and conditions become more conducive for cotton germination. It is the moisture that is the huge hurdle. Even in areas where it has rained soil can dry out so quickly because there is little to no stored moisture in the profile for that rain to meet and remain in the seed zone for more than a few days if not hours. My suggestion is that we be as patient as possible to allow for the chance of rainfall and soil/air temperature to continue to improve.

Currently, I am not finding thrips moving in or near wheat fields, which is the source for this cotton pest. High Plains cotton producers need to be mindful of both above ground plant pest activity, but also the developing root system for any abnormalities such as galls from nematodes or root pruning from wireworms.

On page 3 of this newsletter, you will see the schedule for this season scouting and mapping clinics. The first one is this coming Friday, May 12th here at the Extension office in Levelland. My prayer is that it will be too wet to do anything else, so I will see you next week. Kerry

BARKER RESEARCH FARM Report – Morton

The Barker Research Farm (BRF) has been preparing for this first growing season since last fall. The pivot is in good working condition thanks to Scotty Simpson and the crew at Frontier Valley. Also, the folks at Komet Irrigation Corporation helped with a new nozzle package.


A good portion of the center pivot has been committed to long-term research in cropping systems lead by Drs. Burke, Lewis, Keeling, Wheeler, Dever, Bednarz, et al. This cropping systems will help answer questions about which crop rotations such as wheat, grain sorghum, and a fallow period work best with cotton production in comparison to continuous cotton. This cropping systems effort will also look at different irrigation levels, and efforts to increase biodiversity.

The remaining portion of the pivot will be devoted to various short term research projects such as in weed control, insect control, nematode management, seedling disease management, bio stimulants, and a few others. Many others and I will have responsibility for these projects. Stay tuned.

When we get the drip system running with help from Eco-Drip here in Levelland we will be looking at some great work from Dr. Terry Wheeler on cotton root-knot nematode management on one half. The other half of the drip is planned to have a row spacing project on this 80" drip. Drs. Lewis, Dever, Burke, Bednarz and others will be looking at conventional 40" versus this common pattern of 30" X 50" spacing, and an 80" row spacing. Should be very interesting.

So, a lot of good work is planned out at the BRF. Dolle Barker has been great to work with along with Todd Willingham and Steve Harris. I know David Holland, CEA-Ag Cochran County and I are really blessed to be part of this venture in solving some interesting and highly important questions we have in Texas West Plains agriculture.





**WEST TEXAS
AGRICULTURAL
CHEMICALS INSTITUTE**

71ST ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
Scottish Rite Building | Lubbock, Texas

Stay tuned for registration details!

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 School #1

May 12, 9-11 am

Extension office, Levelland

Cotton Scout & Map School #2

June 23, 9-10 am

TBA (In-field near Levelland)

Cotton Scout & Map School #3

July 21, 9-10 am

TBA (In-field near Littlefield)

**Cotton Map & Harvest Aid
School #4**

August 25, 9-10 am

Barker Res. Farm, Morton

If questions contact Kerry Siders at 806 638-5635

Hockley and Cochran IPM Scouting Program

1. Field scouting for insect, weed, and disease pests in cotton, peanuts, and other crops.
2. Weekly scheduled intervals.
3. Individual field pest report provided.
4. Management suggestions with emphasis on proactive IPM methods.
5. Management suggestions available upon request for irrigation, growth regulators, fertility, harvest aids, and other agronomic considerations.
6. Fall soil sampling for cotton root-knot nematode management suggestions.
7. Irrigated cotton scouting \$7/acre, peanut scouting is \$9/acre. Pricing for dryland and other crops available.
8. Prorated refunds of scouting fees for loss of crop due to natural causes.
9. Contact Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM for more information at 638-5635(mobile) or 894-3150 (office).



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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