

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 drought is not over officially, but for most of us we have been heading in the right direction the last month. Thank you, God. Based on my National Weather Service Observations for Levelland in May we have received 3.28" of precipitation. Really nothing to brag about for spring rains. However, many parts of this and surrounding counties have had upwards of +7" during May. This weather during planting has caused delays and poor stands. The soil temperature has been good, but our nighttime temperatures have continued to hover in the mid to upper 50's. Way too cool. So, NO COMPLAINTS about the rain. However, these temperatures are what have really been slowing crop development progress. See page 4 for weather data.

The irrigated acres have mostly been planted, with some to be replanted. There are still many dryland acres which need to be planted as soon as it dries enough to get back in the field. This weather has thrown us a curve ball in the completion of planting, but I think producers will stick with cotton for as long as they can and then may divert acres to alternative crops such as grain sorghum.

Cotton stand evaluations are our priority as we visit fields. Most of our cotton acres are on 40" rows, so we generally count the number of plants in 13' of row (1/1000th of an acre). We would consider 26 plants (2 plants per foot) in that 13' space to be 26,000 plants per acre. This would be a minimum good stand on irrigated cotton. Ideally, your stand would have closer to 40,000 plants per acre or closer to 3 plants per foot. Dryland acres can dip down into the 19,000 range or 1.5 plants per row foot.

Weed pressure has really increased with these rains. As soon as planting is over and stands are established or maybe even sooner, producers need to turn their attention to weed management. Post-emerge herbicides like Roundup, Liberty, Xtend, or Enlist will need to be used along with the addition of a residual herbicide.


Thrips have been light up to this point. However, I have been seeing more activity the last couple of days in both thrips' numbers and damage to slow growing cotton.

Products to consider for foliar treatments: Bidrin 8EC 1.6-3.2 oz/A, Acephate 90 Prill 2.5-3.3 oz/A, Orthene 97 2.5-3.0 oz/A, Radiant SC 4.25-8 oz/A, or Dimethoate 4E 4-8 oz/A. The threshold is 1 thrips per 1 true leaf.

BARKER RESEARCH FARM Report – Morton



- Thanks to Dolle Barker, Todd Willingham, Scotty Simpson, and folks at Eco-Drip for repairs on the big well, the “big redo” of the drip system filters etc., and repair of drip tape leaks.
- Fili Nava with Bayer planted the grain sorghum in area 4 (NNW pivot) of the system plots on May 17; Todd Willingham sprayed RU, atrazine, + Warrant the next morning. Stand looks great.
- Dr. Wheeler and crew planted several nematode trials (May 18-23) on the west half of the drip field. A good portion of this cotton is up to good stand.
- Drs. Lewis and Burke planted several projects in spans 7 & 8 on May 24-31, and the inside dryland portion of the research area 7 (SE pivot). They started on the row spacing by population study on the east half of the drip field yesterday.
- Thanks to Ira Yates for helping Dr. Suhas and I with projects under span 6 of research area 7; and thanks to Todd Willingham for helping me plant a ThryvOn agronomic study in span 4 and a variety trial in span 3 & 5 of the research area 7.
- Todd and crew planted the conventional cotton in area 1 on May 24, before a rain. Then finished up the min, no-till areas plus the dryland corners on May 30. DP 2335 B3XF (started with outside 6 rows) and ST 4993 B3XF were alternated every 12 rows throughout the systems areas.
- WEED CONTROL: Areas where Todd applied Valor look clean. There are areas where weeds are becoming an issue quickly. Dolle has purchased a sprayer which I can use. Todd is setting it up on one of his tractors. I will spray Roundup, Liberty, or Xtend with a residual as needed in the systems and dryland corner areas.
- The rain has been a real blessing, but these cool, almost cold nights/mornings below 60 degrees are causing issues. I will do my best to keep everyone informed of the stands, thrips, and weeds during June, and then scout on a weekly basis during the season.



**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 11, 9-10 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

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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