

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



August 17, 2023

Vol. 28 – No. 13

Current Pests and Crop Situation

Cotton ranges from just starting to bloom to hard cut-out (0 nodes above white flower). Ideally cotton will be blooming out-the-top by now; because we have reached that point when the odds of a bloom developing into a quality/yield contributing harvestable boll will drop considerably over the next few days. In fact, you have probably noticed fields beginning to shed squares and some small bolls this week. This is a normal process of the plant making a final adjustment in what the plant can naturally hold and mature out. Be sure though that this fruit shed is natural and not being induced by some insect like worms or Lygus. I have seen a few bollworm eggs around but between heat and beneficial insects and spiders I am not finding any larva. I can still find a few cotton aphids as well, oh, and whiteflies. Most of these aphids are no far and few between mostly due to the same beneficials working on the worms. Here is the cotton aphid guide which discusses threshold, chemical control, and other considerations:

http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/07/Cotton-aphid_ENTO074.pdf .

Continue scouting for a few more weeks. By September 1st most cotton acres should have well over 400 heat units accumulated since reaching <5 nodes above white flower stage (August 5). This gauge of time tells us that a crop is safe from most insect damage.

Here of late, questions about irrigation have been most prominent. I will admit I get conservative with irrigation as we move into the last days of August and would rather err on the side of being too dry than too wet going into September. However, as hot, and dry as we have been for the last 4-6 weeks, I am encouraging most to stay with the irrigation as long as feasible. We have already had our chance of making quantity, now it is a matter of achieving quality through maturity. The last bolls set during this time need to be relatively stress free for 20 days (approximately September 8th). So, if the plant recovers quickly from any wilting during a +90-degree day then those last bolls formed should mature properly. Forty to forty-five days after the last harvestable boll is formed (approximately September 30th), the plant can nearly go into permanent wilt, and it should not have an impact on yield or quality. So, bottom line – I am encouraging you to stay with the water for another 10-14 days at least. Then ask me again. Call if questions.



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 Map & Harvest Aid School #4

August 25, 9-10 am

Barker Research Farm, Morton

If questions contact Kerry Siders at 806 638-5635

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September 21, 2023

COCHRAN COUNTY FARM FAIR

COUNTY SHOW BARN
1883 FM 1780 MORTON TX 79346



BOOTH REGISTRATION
9:00 A.M.

BOOTH RESERVATIONS
CONTACT: SHAY BUTLER
806-266-5215

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED BY
RIVER SMITH'S 11:30 -1:00

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West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference Set for September 14

Pre-Registration Deadline is September 8

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute will host their annual conference on Thursday, September 14, at the Scottish Rite Event Center, located at 1101 70th Street in Lubbock.

This year represents the 71st meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include:

- Weed control in herbicide-tolerant sorghum.
- New chemistries for weed and brush control in range and pasture.
- Endangered Species Act overview.
- Beltwide cotton IPM research focus.
- Semi-arid Agricultural Systems Institute research update; and
- Australia cotton production overview compared to West Texas cotton production.

A total of 7 Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) CEUs are pending currently.

Pre-registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/3QuDE7G>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and must be completed by September 8. Booth fees start at \$300. On-site registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., the day of the conference, and will cost \$95 for attendees and \$325 for booth sponsors. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

Contact Scott Asher at scott.asher@basf.com for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration, contact Kara Bishop, 806-792-4904 or kara@plainscotton.org.

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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