

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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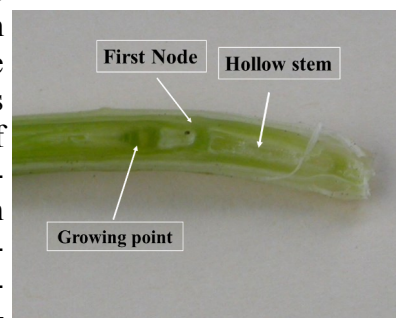
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GENERAL SITUATION

What is to be said that has not been said a hundred times before over the past several years, it's DRY. Fortunately it is not as dry right now as it was at this point last year. And that is exactly the same thing that Warren said at this time last year, so maybe things are starting to turn around. Unfortunately after receiving about 3.25 inches in November and December, the rains have stopped. Since I arrived we have received a total of .15 in. of rain and a lot of cold weather. Hope that is not a sign of things to come. There is still some decent moisture out there, many of the fields and beds that I have dug in have good moisture 4-6 in. from the top. Of course they have been pre-watering. The top of the beds are fairly cloddy in many fields which could effect seed to soil contact. Dryland fields which have just been rebudded still look decent. The fewer passes made on the irrigated fields the better moisture they have. The ground is starting to warm up pretty good with 2 in. soil temps. in the low 50's at 7:00 a.m.

Wheat

This wheat crop is all over the place right now but of course many times that is the case. Especially when everyone has a different goal in mind for their crop. The first thing that I will mention is that many of the fields that I have looked at will reach first hollow stem in about a week depending on if the weather stays warm. If you have plans on fertilizing do it now. The rule of thumb on fertilizing wheat varies considerably from 1.2-2 lbs of N for each bu of wheat you expect to harvest depending on which university or specialist you talk to. The important thing is that for irrigated wheat, if you did not put any preplant fertilizer down then now is the time to fertilize. The timing of your fertilizer application is critical in that the fertilizer must be present when the head of each tiller reaches the first hollow stem stage and the potential number of



FIRST HOLLOW STEM ABOUT THE DIAMETER OF A DIME BELOW THE FIRST NODE

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BROWN WHEAT MITE, OCCASIONAL PEST OF WHEAT DURING DROUGHT

spikelets per seed head are determined. This is basically when the size of the head is determined. At flowering is when the actual number of seed will be determined.

Another thing to keep in mind is that if the field has any weeds now is the time to take care of those as well. Weed control recommendations in [wheat](#) include Axial, Olympus, PowerFlex and others for grass control. Ally, 2,4-D, Dicamba, Glean, and Huskie among others for broadleaves. And products such as Finesse Grass and Broadleaf or Maverick Pro for both grass and broadleaf control. Care should be taken to make sure that applications are not made after jointing if the label restricts applications after the jointing stage as well as plant back restrictions.

For wheat being grazed now is also the time to remove cattle and goats if your plans are to take the crop to grain. With the growing point just below the soil surface, in a week it will be above the soil surface and able to be eaten by livestock. Once eaten, the productivity of that tiller is lost. If the wheat will be grazed out then pray for rain and consider a little topdress fertilizer depending on whether you think it will rain.

St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 8th, 5:00 p.m. St. Lawrence Hall
Please attend and support your local cotton association. More information will follow from St. Lawrence Cotton Growers.

NCC Farm Bill Meeting, March 18th

The National Cotton Council has scheduled a 2014 Farm Bill education meeting in Garden City at the Community Center to provide its members with a greater understanding of The Agricultural Act of 2014. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run approximately 2 hours.

Result Demonstration Results Complete

The 2013 Result Demonstrations that were conducted in Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton Counties have now been ginned, analyzed, and recorded. We recently held the annual Result Demonstration Review out at the Glasscock County Coop and I left copies of the results both there and at the Midkiff Gin as well. If anyone would like copies in another format, such as electronic, or if they have run out since the last time I was out there, feel free to give me a call or come by. You can also see all types of trials from the rest of the state as well as other crops and research at varietytesting.tamu.edu

Newsletter Renewal

You will notice that there is a renewal sheet in your newsletter this month. I am updating the mailing list in order to make sure that everyone wishes to continue receiving the newsletter throughout the year. I will continue to send them out much the same way that Warren did, maybe a few more during the off season, if I see anything in wheat worth talking about. Once the season starts I will send them out bi-weekly with an update on what is going on around the St. Lawrence area. Also, for those of you who wish to receive them via email, I will be using more color pictures of insects and weeds that I find out in the field which will show up nicely electronically but unfortunately I cannot afford to print in color for everyone. I will also occasionally send out short little emails if I am finding something out in the field. You will also get your newsletters a couple of days quicker and save me some money on postage. For those of you who still want a hard copy that is not a problem.



GREENBUG IN WHEAT

Scouting Program

I have had several questions and/or concerns about the Scouting Program for this summer. I just wanted to take a second to let everyone know that YES, we will have a Scouting Program for the St. Lawrence IPM program. I am currently prepared to start advertising for cotton scouts and will continue to advertise over the next couple of months. Our ultimate goal is to have 6 scouts but we feel that we need at least 4 to make the program work and not work the scouts so hard that they start missing things out in the field. Rick Minzenmayer, IPM agent in Ballinger and I have already discussed having the scout school this year for all of the scouts as was done in the past. If you know of anyone who you think would be good for the job have them give me a call.

2014 Result Demonstrations

As I am currently working on planning and establishing Result Demonstrations for 2014, I wanted to remind everyone that if you have something in particular that you would like to see evaluated and tested let me know. I still have time to locate seed and chemical for many of the trials that we would like to see done. You guys are my best resource and without your input I may miss out on a lot of opportunities or not realize that there is a need for research in a particular area.



THRIPS, OCCASIONAL EARLY
SEASON PEST OF COTTON

We are required to update our mailing lists once a year in order to prevent sending newsletters to people who have moved and to ensure that everyone wishes to continue to receive the newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving the IPM newsletter complete and return this form to the office.

If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail you can check the box and return the form or send me an e-mail at breasterling@ag.tamu.edu with "Newsletter" in the subject and at least your name in the email and I will add you to the e-mail list.

☐ I want to continue receiving hard copies of the Crop Management Report newsletter for Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton Counties for the coming year at the following address:

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If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please list them below.

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