

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

June 21, 2019

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THANK YOU

SCOUTING PROGRAM

Cotton scouts, Shay Miller and Ryan Halfmann hit the fields again this year. You can again follow their progress throughout the summer on my blog at [IPM Blog](#) and also sign up to have my weekly summary emailed to you with all locations checked for the week marked on the map. This year we are also attaching the scouting report to each location that is checked. It is still a work in progress, but it is getting better. Now that the scouts are in the field, if you know that they will be in your area when you have sprayed a pesticide please let us know. The map is on the blog site and they check the regions in order 1-5 Monday -Friday.

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COTTON

The heat is finally arriving to St. Lawrence and looks like yesterday (6/20) will be the peak for a while. From there we should hopefully start a gradual descent. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any good chances of rain in the forecast. Most cotton is starting to move along at this time with the majority of fields between cotyledon and 3 true-leaves. Some of the older fields are 5-6 true-leaves and near squaring, not an ideal time for 100+ degree heat. There are several fields that seem to be just sitting there and not growing like they should. Many of these fields were planted somewhere between 5/20 and 5/27. During this period we had two nights that dropped into the low 50's and the soil temperatures dropped into the low to mid 60's along with .75" of rain. Any seed that has a less than optimum vigor may struggle to emerge and potentially suffer cold shock which can damage and kill the root tip. This leads to decreased growth, water and nutrient uptake, as well as plant growth. We are also seeing some seedling disease on some of these small plants which is also contributing to their slow growth.



Figure 1. Post-emergence damping-off.



Figure 2. "Soreshin" symptoms caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*.

They are primarily *Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium*. Dr. Tom Isakeit, Extension Plant Pathologist developed a [publication](#) describing these diseases. Throw in a scattering of thrips and some real wet ground with little air to the roots and these plants are moving real slow. At this point a shot of nitrogen and a cultivation may be your best bet to get these fields going.

Insects are not a tremendous problem overall at this time, however we do need to remain diligent. Jumbos are still out and about and in some cases are approaching fields that have already been treated 1-2 times. They are slowly making their way farther west with higher numbers being found in the north/northwestern part of the Glasscock county and in St. Lawrence. Overall, the number one contributing factor to number of jumbos is still proximity to pasture.

For cotton nearing squaring, keep an eye out for fleahoppers. There are quite a few that can be found in the weeds in pastures and ditches. As these weeds dry down they will be moving. A few aphids can be found, but at this point they are a food source for our beneficials which we need to get going. At this time a few spiders and lady beetles is about all that is out there.

CORN/SORGHUM

Corn has really taken off the past couple of weeks with these moderate temperatures. Most everything is pollinating and looks good, just need to keep the water going right now for a few weeks. I have noticed some green snap in corn this year. This is where the stalk breaks generally just below or above the ear. This is due to high winds in conjunction with rapidly growing plants. Plants are most susceptible



from the 5th to 8th leaf stage and from the 12th to about one week after silking. At these stages the cell walls are still hardening, much like the uppermost five nodes on a cotton plant when we determine PGR application. With these brittle cell walls, a rapidly growing plant, high yields, and then high winds, snap stalks off. Variety can play an important roll as some varieties are more susceptible than others, but when conditions are right and the winds are high enough, all varieties can suffer from green snap. Most seed companies will give a rating on green snap susceptibility.

I have also noticed a little rust in a few corn fields at this time. Everything that I have seen to date is **Common Rust** which has no economic impact on corn. **Southern Rust** is our other rust disease in corn which can have an economic impact I **have not** seen any southern rust at this time. If southern rust should show up there are several fungicides labeled, generally the same ones we use in wheat, such as: Quadris, Headline, Tilt, Propimax, Quilt, Stratego, etc. Tom Isakeit also has a [publication](#) describing both of these diseases.



Sorghum is looking very good but the fields that are in boot and heading out could use a rain right now to maximize yields. A few worms are being found, so keep an eye out for head worms. No sugarcane aphids have been found and numbers are very low in south Texas this year.

TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 25	8:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, June 26	8:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop
Tuesday, July 2	8:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, July 3	8:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop