

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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If you would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list please email erica.rauschuber@ag.tamu.edu

THANK YOU

The county extension office will be closed to the public until further notice. If you have any questions or concerns please contact e-mail/call Brad or Cody at:

breasterling@ag.tamu.edu
940-256-1524

or
cody.trimble@ag.tamu.edu

ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT
BRAD EASTERLING
EA-IPM

GLASSCOCK, REAGAN, UPTON COUNTIES
PO Box 299

GARDEN CITY, TX 79739
432-354-2381 (o)
940-256-1524 (m)

[HTTPS://GLASSCOCK.AGRILIFE.ORG/](https://glasscock.agrilife.org/)
IPM/

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STLAWRENCEIPM/](https://www.facebook.com/stlawrenceipm/)



WHEAT

Overall, this wheat crop is looking relatively good around here for this time of the year and should yield above average for most growers in the area. That is not to say that there are not some fields that are having some issues out there. The incidence of stripe rust along with a small amount of leaf rust continue to increase in more and more fields. Unfortunately at this time there is not much we can do for any disease pressure in this crop unless you have a field that has not yet headed out or is in the very early stages of heading and has not begun flowering. I can look at any fields that you have questions about. A list of fungicides along with pre-harvest intervals, and application timings can be found here: [Fungicides Labeled for Rust Control](#)



Stripe Rust

There is still a combination of Septoria and Stagonospora leaf blotch around, but in general is not too much of an issue currently. In any fields that have Leaf Blotch in high enough levels to be treated, most all our fungicides labeled for rust control will also control this disease. The good news is that these hot dry winds will keep any diseases out there from increasing.

One of the biggest reasons for the brown tips and yellowing in many fields this year is lack of nitrogen. With the great rain and high yield potential this year, we have simply run out of nitrogen in many fields. Even in some of the fields that were fertilized they have still used up everything that was put out or it was leached below the root zone or ran off before the plant could make use of it. At this point in time there is nothing we can do about it, an application now may add a little bit to the test weight, but not significantly.

Cotton

Field work continues at a rapid pace as many folks are still trying to catch back up from being out of the field for so long. Most all fields are looking fairly weed free and mostly clean as they have either had beds thrown up or sprayed.

Cotton, cont.

I know I sound like a broken record but remember when spraying those fields to mix more than one mode of action into your tank in order to try and prevent resistance. We all know about the resistance issues with glyphosate, but there are many weeds in other states resistant to both dicamba and 2,4-d and we want to preserve these and other herbicides for as long as possible. Furthermore, they have documented resistance to products such as Staple, diuron, Cotoran, Caparol, Envoke, and others so tank mixes are a must.

As the topsoil continues to dry out more and more well have been started up over the past several weeks as we get farther away from the last rain and with few chances of a rain coming up. In many of the dryland fields that I have looked at here over the past several days the top 6-7 inches is getting fairly dry and could definitely use a rain. Soil temperatures have been steadily climbing over the past week to ten days and are nearly warm enough to put cotton in the ground for the folks who like to get an early start. By mid-afternoon they are plenty warm, but these cool mornings are driving the temperature down every night. With the upcoming forecast it may be getting close to optimum in the next couple of weeks. Remember that the minimum soil temperature is 65° F at the 8-inch level along with a favorable forecast. Cotton needs 50-80 heat units to emerge, therefore the 5-day forecast should call for a minimum of 25 heat units after planting. Of course, the warmer the soil and the more heat units accumulated the quicker the emergence and the better and stronger the stand should be. Also keep in that moisture level, soil type, bedded or flat ground, and amount of cover all play a part in how quickly the soil will warm up or cool off. Wetter soil will tend to change temperature slower than dry soil as the moisture works as an insulator for the soil. Courser soils will warm up quicker than finer soils as well, darker soils absorb more heat during the day and warm up quicker. Bedded ground will warm up quicker than flat ground, and if you have a lot of cover than this too will work as an insulator for your ground. Of course, by the time we get into late May this generally is not as issue as everything is warm enough to plant around here. Keep in mind when it comes to irrigation that you should have a complete stand before turning your water on. Irrigation water, especially in a drip system will lower the soil temperature quickly and if the seed takes up water in the 50° F range chilling injury can occur. This can either kill or injure the plant. Injury can greatly slow the growth of the plant delaying emergence and opening it up the various seedling diseases.

Result Demonstrations

At this point in time we have quite a few trials planned for this summer including variety, fertility, root rot, Bt, insect monitoring, plant pattern, and seeding rate. If you have an idea of something else that you would like to look at give me a call and we will see if we can put it together. If there is something that you are doing on your own that you think you might want some weights taken on at the end of the year let me know, I would not mind coming by and taking a look at it during the season and taking some notes on it during the summer. I'm also looking for one more location to test a liquid zinc product to run through drip this summer as a one-shot application. If someone is interested give me a call.

Podcast

I along with several other IPM agents throughout the western half of Texas have started recording a weekly podcast talking about issues going on in our areas and upcoming topics to be considered during the growing season. Haley Kennedy, IPM Agent in Tom Green and Runnells is recording with me. We are in the process of setting up a texting service so the link can be sent to you weekly. Right now all of our previous podcasts can be found on our entomology website at: <https://www.texasinsects.org/southern-high-plains-pest-news.html>