

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 is now open to the public and we will be in the office M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

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COTTON

I sure hate to start out this early in the year complaining about it being hot and dry, but most all of you know that most everyone has not had any significant rain since mid March. It is also unusual for us to reach 100°F this early in May. We are currently about 6°F warmer than normal. At least the wind is about normal, just more than we want. This past weekend did provide for a shower where folks received anywhere from a sprinkle to a couple of inches north of St. Lawrence up through north of Garden City. Some of it soaked in well enough to get planters going, others are getting out rotary hoes. As in the past there are a couple of varieties we are having a hard time getting up.

Seed to soil contact, a firm seed bed, and getting into moisture are critical this year, especially if you have a variety that is a little difficult to get up. Even though thrips are generally not an issue around here I would be sure and keep an eye on them if you have a field located next to wheat. We have more wheat and grain in general this year than in a long time and we could see a lot of thrips moving out of wheat into our cotton. It has been so long since we have had a real problem with thrips. You will want to be careful and not dismiss thrips damage for wind and sand damage. The younger leaves will tend to curl upward and have a deformed blackened appearance. Older leaves will get a silvering appearance on the lower surface. They can feed on terminals and leaf buds causing erratic stands with varied maturity. For this reason we will want to make sure they do not become a problem or if our cotton continues to outgrow any damage quickly.



Thrip Damage

Photo taken by Suhas Vyavhare

WHEAT

This wheat crop is now coming out of the field and looks good. It is amazing what a little rain will do for a wheat crop. You can also tell a big difference between the fields that were fertilized and the ones that were not. Even many of the ones that received fertilizer could have used more due to all of the rain.

CORN/SORGHUM

Most all of corn and sorghum in the area has recovered from the prolonged wind damage it received a little while back. A few fields have been beaten up a bit by a couple of hail storms that have come through, but at this time everything I have looked at is purely cosmetic. Hopefully everyone has put the bulk of their fertilizer on by the V4-V7 stage as this is when the growing point is emerging above the soil line and V8 through V12 is where the plant will be determining yield. The number of rows of kernels and number of kernels per row is determined. This is the same process as with wheat and sorghum. You also do not want the plant to stress for moisture at this time. In general, the only insects I am really concerned about in corn right now are spider mites. With it getting so dry we better keep a look out. Spider mites could also be an issue in sorghum as well as worms if they feed down to the developing head. If they are just chewing on the leaves I generally do not worry about them. We usually do not see sugarcane aphids until late July-August and activity has been relatively slow in the Valley to this point.

REFLEX

There have been a lot of questions concerning reflex over the past couple of months. Reflex does in fact have a section 24(c) label for use in cotton for our area. These counties include Glasscock, Reagan, Upton, Midland, Martin, Howard, Tom Green, Runnels, Concho and Pecos, for folks farming out there along with many other counties in the area. Preplant applications call for 1pt/ac 14-21 days prior to planting with a minimum of a 1/2 inch of rain. The rotation restrictions are quite long and should be abided by as emergence of crops other than cotton will be affected. I have attached a label for your use or you can view it at cdms.net

PODCAST

Concho Valley/St. Lawrence Audio Updates

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension IPM Agents across the state are now recording audio pest reports weekly. Modern times call for modern methods of receiving information like this. We are currently recording with myself and Haley Kennedy in Runnels and Tom Green Counties, and the High Plains has one. We are looking at adding other locations as well. One of the ways to receive this Concho/St. Lawrence Audio Pest Report is through a text alert like parents receive from schools or other organizations. Here is what you do:

You can sign up for text by going to: <https://www.texasinsects.org/signup-texts.html> and fill out the signup box for "Concho St. Lawrence"

It will ask whether you are a producer, consultant, industry, or other. We sure would appreciate this information to know who all is listening. Previous audio files can be found at <https://www.texasinsects.org/southern-high-plains-pest-news.html>.