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ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT
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IPM AUDIO UPDATES

To catch my IPM Audio Updates recorded weekly, you can sign up at: [Rolling Plains/West Texas IPM Audio Updates](#) or click on the QR code below and receive notifications by text when one has been recorded and then listen to it whenever you wish. This is a very brief update about what I am finding around St. Lawrence both pest and crop wise along with what I expect to see in the near future.



Cotton

Conditions have not changed tremendously over the past two weeks, it remains hotter, dryer, and windier than average. It has been three weeks now since the string of storms came through here and dropped anywhere from a couple of tenths to a 1.5" over a couple of days. Since that time we have averaged just over 100° with 11.5 mph winds. Pretty tough start to a year with or without decent moisture.

Right now this crop is just trying to get it's feet under it and get going, and it is all over the place in terms of maturity, stand establishment, quality, and vigorous growth. A whole lot of cotton is at cotyledon to 1TL although it has been in the ground for 2+ weeks. Some of the older cotton is 7-8TL and now starting to set first pinhead squares. Many of the very late emerging, slow growing and very skippy, spotty stands need to be evaluated on the feasibility of hanging on to these fields and putting more inputs into these fields despite being irrigated, with the yield potential already sitting where it is at, and declining daily. As badly as a farmer always wants to believe that it is going to rain tomorrow and make everything a whole lot better, there are times when the best thing for you and your operation is to just stop throwing good money after bad.

Fortunately the temperatures have cooled down a bit compared to where they were a couple of weeks ago. No one, including the cotton liked the 102-106° everyday. Despite the "cooler" temperatures this crop is already using more moisture than usual. Add that to zero underground and this is another reason to be careful about keeping acres that you cannot keep up with or make profitable. You might be better off to water a smaller number of acres and watering longer.

The good news is that insects are not an issue right now. I cannot hardly find any thrips anywhere, basically because we have had nothing for them to survive on up to this point. As cotton starts to square we will have to start watching for cotton fleahoppers. Remember, they can be found in weeds like white-weed, and doveweed, so if you have young cotton then you will



Cotton, Cont.

want to get to these weeds now. Waiting until cotton begins to square will only drive the fleahoppers from the weeds you just sprayed to your squaring cotton.

Spider mites will need to be monitored as we are starting to pick some up in melons in Upton and Glasscock Counties. Any time it gets this hot and dry and we get dust blowing and covering leaves we tend to see mites. It would not be a surprise to have a mite issue this year if it stays dry.

Melons

One thing that can be said about all of the heat and dry weather is that the watermelons and cantaloups do well in this. They have made great progress over the past couple of weeks and there is a bit coming off right now with everything steadily picking up over the next 10 days or so. As I just mentioned, mites have begun building in a couple of melon fields in the area. It is not a huge surprise to see them, we just do not get them every year or at very high levels. There are quite a few products labeled for mites in melons including abamectin, Zeal Miticide, Portal XLO, Kanemite 15SC, Oberon 2SC, Minecto Pro, Acramite 50WS and multiple pyrethroids. I will tell you that the pyrethroids are the cheaper way to go but are not generally as consistent at controlling the mites as the miticides. They are also a much “harder” chemical and will take out most all of your beneficials as well as be much harder on your bees. Use caution when using pyrethroids.



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