

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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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

After quite a few acres of irrigated cotton being taken out the past couple of weeks, we are down to what seems like just a handful of fields left in the three counties here. However, most of what we do have left is starting to get it's feet under it and start making a little progress finally despite the warm and windy weather. I started seeing a few blooms this week over near Midkiff, these fields had been blooming for about 4-5 days already and were loaded nicely. Elsewhere, fields are generally in the 8-12 TL range with 9-11 being more about average. Square sets remain very good with most all fields above 90%. I have noticed a couple of areas where the square set is a little lower and there are a higher number of blasted squares but still not enough to cause concern. These fields have all been either where the stands have been very thin or located next to dryland acres that have been blowing some. It appears that sand blasting is the biggest culprit.

Most all of our cotton at this time looks like it should mature in a timely manor, even the latest planted or replanted fields. Anything that has begun squaring by now should have plenty of time to still set enough squares and bloom for 3-4 weeks before our final bloom date. Cooler temperatures and a little rain would help out as well.

Spider mites have continued to increase throughout the area for the past week. They can be found basically exactly where you would expect to find them, the southwest corner of fields,



Cotton, Cont.

especially where it is extremely dry and dusty. The more traffic, the more mites I have been finding. If you have oil field traffic or neighbors who drive down you turn rows to get to their farms you might keep an eye on your fields. Fortunately, I have not seen anything that I felt was at treatable levels yet but that does not mean that they cannot get there in a couple of days under these kinds of conditions. The “Greater” Garden City area along with the other little pockets that received a rain over the past couple of weeks look to be pretty clean. I am having a very difficult time finding anything in these fields. Otherwise I can find mites in just about every other field throughout the three counties. Even if you cannot find any mites, I would scout your fields like you think you have them to prevent them from blowing up on you.

Generally 40% of plants with spider mites is used as a guideline for treating, however, many times we are able to use border treatments and use modified thresholds. I have found them in low numbers quite a ways out into fields, but hopefully if we have to treat the borders, the beneficials can handle the ones in the middle of the field.

When it comes to spraying, I highly suggest a miticide. There are several products such as Agri-Mek, Oberon, Portal, and Zeal that will do a pretty good job on spider mites. They will also work on melons, corn, sorghum, etc. Just read the label. Keep in mind that most miticides do not work in 12 hours or so like we are accustomed to with many of our other insecticides. It may take a couple of days to see them go to work. You will want to use a lot of water, 15+ gallons, and hollow cone nozzles do a good job of “fogging” the chemical in to get the mites. The use of pyrethroids, although labeled is about 50/50 on whether it will work. Sometimes it is great, other times, nothing. One thing is for sure, you will kill off your beneficials improving the chances that something like aphids or even cotton fleahoppers become a problem.

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