

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

This crop is starting to bloom a little more each day with approximately 15% of fields with one or two blooms at this time. Average nodes above white flower is running 8-10 at this time which is very good. For what few acres we have, overall this crop is looking better than I would have expected it to look at this time just 3 weeks ago. Despite the 100° temperatures, above average wind, and lack of rain in most areas, it appears that the reduced number of acres being watered has helped the few remaining acres handle these conditions better.

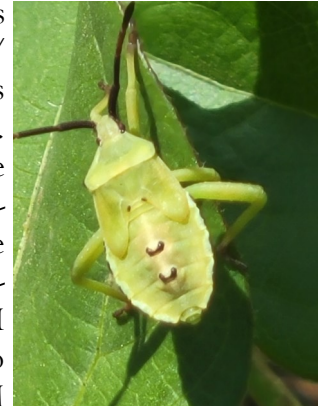
Both square and boll retention continues to look very good at this time. Most square sets are better than 80% and all bolls have managed to stick so far. Insects are basically non-existent with cotton fleahoppers very difficult to find and the spidermites that were prevalent just two weeks becoming very difficult to find. This is understandable in areas that received a little rain, however, in the majority of the country that has been dry they have still disappeared. There was a building population of beneficials that has most likely helped in controlling these guys somewhat.

There are several moths along with a butterfly flying around in many of these fields that I have been receiving questions about over the past few days. Fortunately our Bt technology is taking care of the lava of these pests and I have not seen any worms or feeding damage on any plants to this point. The most numerous out there is the fall armyworm. This is not surprising since we have caught a tremendous number of them this summer and Dr. Pat Porter, entomologist in Lubbock has recorded a record number of FAW in his traps. There are also garden webworm moths. I have not found any eggs or larva from these as of yet. The one butterfly is the cotton square borer. We see this moth every year and again, Bt has been controlling them just fine.



Mozena obtuse

I have also received quite a few calls from Midland as well as a call from Andrews county concerning a pest called *Mozena obtuse*. This is a plant bug with a piercing/sucking mouth part much like a stinkbug capable of feeding on bolls and perhaps squares. The last time we had much of an issue with *Mozena* was around 2014 or 2015. They still stayed mostly to the pastures then, they were just very noticeable all over the pastures. They tend to feed primarily on legumes which is why they prefer mesquite. Further north in the Brownfield area, they are in cotton in numbers as high as 20 or more per plant. They have also been found in peanuts in Gaines county. In the Midland county area they are being found leaving pastures to become a nuisance for homeowners. I have only seen a couple in Glasscock county in one field to this point but I still want to continue looking and make everyone aware of this potential pest. Kerry Siders, IPM Agent in Hockley and Cochran counties has reported reduced square sets in fields with large numbers of *Mozena*. It has not been confirmed that the lower square set is due to *Mozena*, but it is a concern. Dr. Suhas Vyavhare, entomologist in Lubbock conducted a trial which showed that pyrethroids were effective in controlling them.



Here is a link to a [newsletter](#) that Kerry sent out with a little more information that saves me rewriting everything that he has written.

Mesquite Webworm

I have also been asked several times about what is feeding and defoliating the mesquite around here. It appears to be mesquite webworm. These tiny worms are webbing the leaves together and feeding inside, protected from the elements. As they feed they gradually add more and more leaves, defoliating the tree.



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