

# CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT  
BRAD EASTERLING  
EA-IPM  
GLASSCOCK, REAGAN, UPTON  
COUNTIES  
PO BOX 299  
GARDEN CITY, TX 79739



## Pest Management News From the Field

Listen to a brief weekly update on pest activity throughout the area including Pest Alerts that may have popped up since the previous newsletter. 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.



## STINK BUGS

For those you who received the “Pest Management News From the Field” recording earlier in the week you heard me say that stink bug numbers have decreased considerably and that I am not finding many in wheat at this time. Shortly after recording that I was in Reagan County and in each field that I looked at that still had green heads remaining contained countless numbers of stink bugs on the immature heads. Fortunately we have very little wheat that is not mature at this point which is why I have been having a harder time finding these guys. With less immature wheat they are more concentrated. Also,

with the small amount of green wheat left it will most likely not be cost effective to try and treat these small, irregular areas or strips in fields. My bigger concern is



that often times when we start seeing stink bugs this early in the season then they become an issue throughout the year.

Also be on the lookout for stinkbugs in watermelons. We have seen them in the past feeding on the vines and causing the vines to desiccate quickly. Damage can be severe enough that control is necessary. They could possibly move into pastures and then move into corn and sorghum once these crops begin setting grain.

If you are not currently receiving the “Pest Management News From the Field” report and would like to receive it you can click on the QR code to the left or go to the website to sign-up. They are recorded weekly and you will be sent a text when one is recorded with the link. All you do is click on the link to listen.

## COTTON

Cotton planting has officially kicked off with a fair number of Pima acres planted a little over two weeks ago. These acres are up and slowly coming along as the weather has not completely cooperated to this point. A little bit has been replanted but it is trying to come on. Several of the fields that are up are now looking water-logged after building a good soil profile and then having several good showers on top of that. They are getting wet feet and need to dry out a bit and get a some air to the roots to help green those leaves up. A little upland has gone in as well with a lot more getting ready to start on places that did not get as much or any rain this past weekend.

Fortunately quite a few folks did get some good rain over the past week with some receiving over 5 inches in places while others have received at least a few tenths to an inch. Unfortunately a couple of folks did get beat up a bit and now have some damage to try and repair. We still have fairly good chances of rain in the near future, so despite the planting window getting squeezed down the rain is very much appreciated after this extremely long dry spell. When it finally does dry out enough to get in, things will really crank up quickly. Lake bottoms may pose a problem this year if we try and wait to get them planted and end up with a late crop in the bottoms.

Care needs to be taken when planting into this terminated wheat this season and make sure your row cleaners are doing a good job of removing residue out of the seed furrow and not letting it fall into the furrow. I have already seen instances of this or of complete mats of residue covering up the furrow and forcing the seed to push through this residue as well as the soil.

## CORN AND SORGHUM

Corn and sorghum is off and running at this time. A few spots have been beaten up a bit by hail but over all this crop does not look too bad. As a whole this is probably one of the best looking corn and sorghum crops to this point in the season that we have had in quite some time. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can make a crop out of this. I am hearing about fairly high numbers of sorghum aphid down in the Rio Grande Valley already so we are going to have to keep a look out for them as the season progresses and hope they do not become too much of an issue for us this season.

## GRASSHOPPERS

I been seeing quite a few small grasshoppers for several weeks now. There are several different flying species out there primarily coming out of wheat at this time. However, late this week I received word of large numbers of Jumbos in a field east of Garden City. With the long dry spell and the recent rains this could be a grasshopper year and we definitely need to be aware of hoppers. I am hoping that with the rains the pastures will green up enough to keep the grasshoppers out there and out of the cotton.

Brad Easterling, EA-IPM  
Glasscock, Reagan, Upton Counties  
PO Box 299  
117 S. Myrl St.  
Garden City, TX 79739  
432-354-2381 (o)  
940-356-1524 (m)  
breasterling@ag.tamu.edu  
<https://glasscock.agrilife.org/ipm/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/stlawrenceipm/>



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