

# CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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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 about as variable as it usually is at this time of the year. The problem is that the heat has really taken a toll on this crop up to this point. We have a fair number of acres that were replanted that are having a really difficult time getting out of the ground and may not come up. The remainder is anywhere from cotyledon to 7-8 true-leaves and starting to square. The earlier planted Pima is a bit farther along and has been squaring for two to three weeks now.

For the past week our high temperature has averaged 107° while our low has only been 74°. This crop has been under a tremendous amount of stress and has had no opportunity to recover during the night. On top of this our 2 inch soil temp. is 85° and the 8 inch is 81°. These are not great conditions for root growth when we need the roots to grow out and find available soil moisture.

Fortunately insect activity is low at this time. We still have some grasshoppers in a few areas and I would definitely continue to keep an eye out for them, especially on the eastern side of Glasscock county where they tend to be worse. I am seeing an unusually high number of leafhoppers this year. Do not confuse these with cotton fleahoppers. They are similar in size and will move quickly when they

are disturbed on the plant. Leafhoppers will not do any damage to your crop and are not a concern, but you need to know the difference between them and fleahoppers. I am picking up and few



Leafhopper

Cotton Fleahopper

fleahoppers occasionally, and as this crop begins squaring we need to be more aware and watch for them. We also need to watch for them moving in from weeds such as nightshade and croton that

## COTTON, CONT.

may be drying down either from lack of rain and heat or that has recently been sprayed. As these weeds dry down your cotton will be the preferred food source for these fleahoppers.

I am also finding an unusually high number of bollworm eggs in fields at this time. I am not catching many moths in my traps and have not found any worms in the field, but there are quite a few eggs present. This does not mean we need to spray or get ready to, but we should be watchful, especially in the Pima. We also need to watch our two-gene Bt cotton. We have had break throughs before were we have had to spray for worms in the past and bollworm has been getting through two-gene Bt more and more, so scout your fields.

Weeds are still an issue but everyone is getting a better handle on them. It has been a constant battle for weeks now, spraying, cultivating, spraying some more. Most fields, at least the irrigated cotton is pretty well cleaned up. I have been hearing more and more concerns about problems with kochia (iron weed) control. There are known issues of resistance to multiple products in Texas and I will start looking at possible resistance and to what products here. Otherwise, keep the water going.

## CORN AND SORGHUM

Despite the extreme temperatures, pollination on this corn crop has not been as bad as you would think in most fields. In many instances pollination has been disturbed about three quarters of the way up and is incomplete along with the tip, but otherwise not bad. All-in-all it is not much worse than what we have had in years past. I have been picking up bollworm eggs on the tips of ears as well, but I am not seeing stinkbugs in corn like I was seeing in wheat a few weeks ago. There are a few, but not near as many.

Sorghum is moving along and has a tremendous number of bollworm in it at this time. We need to keep a watch on them as we enter the boot stage and start to head out. Small, less than half inch worms are generally not much of an issue, however, when they get to half inch and larger they will consume 85% of the total amount of food that they consume in their lifetime. We will also have to watch for stinkbugs making their return.

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