

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

Fortunately some parts of the area including Garden City, Big Lake, and south of St. Lawrence received a little shower over the past week. Totals have varied as always but some folks have received as much as 1.5". Unfortunately everyone else is still waiting on those rains to bail this crop out. At least the temperatures have cooled off which has helped to finally get this crop growing.

Right now fields vary anywhere from about 4 leaves to 10-12 leaves and setting some larger squares. These earlier planted fields will be blooming in the next couple of weeks, whereas the latest fields which are the most stressed are just trying to hold on at this time. They are expending most of their energy staying alive and are not doing much growing right now. Most of the dryland has begun squaring much higher up on the plant this year than is normal. The 8-10 node appears to be where most of these dryland fields are putting on their first square. This also coincides with when the temperatures finally cooled off a bit. Many of the fields that were planted into standing wheat this spring look quite good right now. The wheat has helped protect this crop from all of the wind that we have had and also kept the soil cooler during the past several weeks of extremely hot temperatures.

The Pima cotton has begun blooming quite nicely this past week and is loading up. It does appear that the heat may have had a slight impact on the square set this past week but should not have any long term yield impact. I am still not finding any bollworms, fall armyworms, or any other worm pests in any Pima at this time.

Insects still remain quite low at this time. Jumbo grasshoppers are still present on the eastern side of Glasscock county, but still not to the levels that they were 6 weeks ago. Cotton fleahoppers are few and far between at this time. I am picking up an occasional Lygus bug here and there, but still not a concern. The stink bugs have all moved out, most likely to the pastures to feed on mesquite beans for a while. There is a good chance that they will be back when we start setting bolls.

Weeds remain our biggest issue at this time, but most everyone seems to have finally gotten a handle on them. It has taken quite a few trips but everyone's fields look pretty clean.

CORN/SORGHUM

Corn is rapidly nearing the end of its life as the recent heat was more than it could stand. Most fields went from soft dough to dent in a matter of days. This was especially true for the 2 x 1 corn where that hot wind was blowing down the rows and drying the plants much quicker than we could put water on. You could actually watch the leaves die. Pollination was effected to varying degrees in these fields depending on planting date and maturity with some fields much worse than others. There are a few early planted fields however that had plenty of water, missed the heat when they were pollinating, and have come out looking pretty good. Hopefully we will not have any other problems from here to the end.

Sorghum is progressing with quite a bit beginning to head out at this time. Bollworms/Headworms seem to have let up a bit, but I would not relax on scouting for them. They are capable of taking a large chunk of grain in a hurry. With the stink bugs most likely having moved to the pastures, be on the lookout for if, or when they decide to move into sorghum. In most years we are able to treat sorghum as a "Catch Crop" and spray the stink bugs there before they have the opportunity to move into the cotton later, while also preserving some yield in our sorghum. I have still not seen any sorghum aphids at this time and have not heard any reports of them being found anywhere close by. Generally when I get a report of them being found in the Concho Valley then they are about 30 days out. So far I have not heard anything. For those of you who have been planting sorghum over the past two weeks, chances are very good you will encounter them before the season is over regardless of the tolerance to the aphid that your variety may have. Continue to scout all season.

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