

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

August 3, 2023

Volume 10, Issue 7

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.



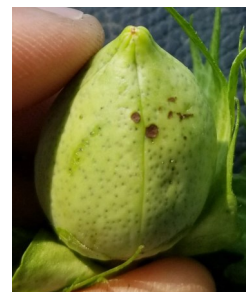
COTTON

The irrigated crop is slowly coming along with about 25% being right on track and about 3/4 still around 1-2 weeks behind. As we sit, fields are anywhere from 3-10 NAWF with most of the crop around 7-8 and growing slowly. The lack of moisture even under drip has compounded the problem. With another week of extremely hot temperatures ahead of us you would think that this will speed the crop up and we will make up some time. However, each time we have had these heat waves it has shut the crop down and caused the crop to fall behind more. So our late cotton may wind up even later and our cotton that is right on schedule may be a couple of days behind. We are definitely going to be looking for an extended, warm, fall this year to try and finish out this crop.

At this time stink bugs are our biggest concern in most all fields around the area. I have been finding punctures and warts in many fields as well as receiving reports from growers, but very few folks including myself have been able to find any SB. Our scouting program has only picked up one or two SB per field for the past couple of weeks. When checking for SB damage, be sure to split bolls open and check for warts on the inside of the bolls. I have spoke with several growers this past week who thought that they had a high percentage of damaged bolls because they had bolls with small black spots resembling feeding punctures. While the black puncture wounds may sometimes coincide with feeding damage, warts on the inside of the carpal wall, and lint staining, that is not always the case. You can also have the same damage with no visible markings on the outside of the boll, therefore all bolls must be split open and observed for damage.



Wart on inside of carpal wall and lint staining



Black spotting

COTTON, CONT.

Stink bugs will generally feed on what we consider medium sized bolls, however they will feed on bolls larger or smaller depending on concentration of SB and number of available bolls in the field. When they feed on smaller bolls, 10 days old and younger, these bolls are generally shed. Scouting can be difficult due to the size of cotton and distribution of SB throughout the field. SB tend to congregate in small areas, especially when they are mating, therefore many times you may find damage and have a very difficult time locating the insect. They also tend to move into and out of fields depending on available food sources such as weeds, grains, and mesquite beans. When scouting, at least 10, preferably 20 bolls, 1 inch in diameter should be removed and split open to check for internal warts on the boll walls and stained lint inside. Stops should be made in multiple locations throughout the field, especially in areas next to grain crops and pastures. The treatment threshold is approximately 20% damaged bolls with SB present. The simplest way to check for SB is to beat the plants on the ground and quickly look for any SB laying there. You can also get an idea of the number of beneficials present. If no SB are found and a high percentage of bolls are damaged, then more plants should be inspected throughout the field. Also split younger and older bolls to try and determine if the damage may be more recent or later. In most years, but especially now, yield potential and price needs to be figured into the equation. Does treatment offset cost of control? After the cotton has accumulated approximately 450 heat units after cutout (5 NAWF) it is generally considered safe from SB. At this point there are generally not enough immature bolls left on the plant to contribute significantly to your yield. However, this decision can change due to plant size, variety, drought stress, boll load, percent of crop which is top crop as well as other factors.

SORGHUM

Sorghum is coming along and doing quite well in the handful of locations where we have it planted this season. Everything that I have looked at should yield pretty good as we get closer to harvest. Everything has turned color and is drying down at this point. Sorghum aphids are still an issue in a couple of spots and need to continue to be monitored in all fields, especially as we get this close to harvest. They can not hurt your yield at this point, but they will wreck your harvest. Stink bugs and headworms have been a problem in a couple of spots, but they have been cleaned up and everything is looking good at this time.

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This work is supported in part by the Crop Protection and Pest Management, Extension Implementation Program [award no. 2021- 70006-35347/project accession no. 1027036] from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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