

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

Here we are again, another two weeks of 100°+ temperatures. We have actually averaged almost 104° over the past 14 days. That makes it pretty tough to hang on to those small bolls when you can not get enough water to your crop to keep up with demand. I have looked at a lot of fields over the past week that have not set a boll in the past 7-10 days. They have shed every new boll shortly after bloom which goes to show how dry we are.



We shed bolls every year and expect to see this yield adjustment, but this is a bit higher than we generally see. This is all drought induced or the result of the crop holding all of the load that it is capable of holding this year under these conditions. As far as finishing up blooming, most all of this crop has now caught up and should finish blooming within the next 10-14 days, which is our last effective bloom date. The primary reason for this is that the plants have flat run out of gas. Fortunately we do have a few days of “cooler” weather coming up and a better chance of rain in the forecast than we have had in a very long time. If this does materialize then we could possibly set a few more bolls and still have time to mature them out. Keep in mind we are not going to add 100 lbs., but it is still better than nothing. A few extra pounds towards the end of the season would definitely



help to offset some of these very small bolls we are seeing even on the irrigated acres. I have seen primarily 4-5 lock bolls which is common, although the size of many of them is smaller than normal. I have seen several 3 lock bolls this year on irrigated acres which is never a good thing.

COTTON

Many folks have commented on the fact that we already have bolls opening up in some irrigated cotton around the area. I have been slicing open and dissecting some of these bolls this week and noticed that these bolls are not mature. The fiber is most likely mature, but the seed is still immature. It is very soft, watery, and has yet to form a seed-coat. It appears that these bolls are popping open due to simply drying out. I have seen this in dryland before but we generally do not pay much attention to it because we expect that type of dryland to be poor and to finish early. This is rather unusual for irrigated, even for early planted cotton.



Stink bugs remain fairly light throughout most of the area and damage seems to have dropped off considerably. I have seen a few in the handful of sorghum fields and occasionally on mesquite, but I am still not finding many in cotton. The most abundant pest I have seen over the past couple of weeks have been spider mites. In general they are following their typical patterns this year. They are heaviest along the high traffic, very powdery roads. Areas with heavy oil field, caliche haulers, watermelon trucks, etc. have flared mites up and need to be monitored. In most every situation they can be controlled with a border pass instead of having to treat the entire field. Recommended products for treating spider mites can be found at:

[Managing Cotton Insects in Texas](#)

TRI-COUNTY CROP TOUR

The Tri-County Crop Tour will be held September 12th at the St. Lawrence Parish Hall. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the tour, social, and meal to follow. CEU's will be offered.

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TRI-COUNTY CROP TOUR

Tuesday, September 12th 2023
St. Lawrence Parish Hall

Meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.
Tour, Social, and Meal to follow
TDA CEU's will be provided

Donations to C.A.C. will be accepted