

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

September 1, 2023

Volume 10, Issue 9

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



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

September has now arrived as most folks are winding down this season or have already basically closed the books on this year. Many folks have already shut pumps off or are thinking about it within the next few days or weeks to come. For those in the Garden City area who caught the 2.00+ inches of rain this week you are most likely in good enough shape to go ahead and shut off. Unfortunately it is late enough in the season that I would not try and use this rain to push this crop and make a few extra pounds. We have reached our final bloom date this week and the odds of a bloom making it to a mature, harvestable boll before our average first freeze go down considerably each day from here on out. Thankfully we received some rain to start replenishing our profile for a wheat crop and to get going for next season.

As everyone looks to cut their water off there are a couple of things to keep in mind. Work that Warren did years ago showed that we are generally good to go ahead and start shutting off about 400-500 heat units after cutout (5 nodes above white flower NAWF). This does however depend on the amount of soil moisture that you have at that time. In a year like this many fields have virtually no subsoil moisture at all. However there are several fields, most that have a very light fruit set, which have water to the surface. In these cases you would be safe to shut off. This 400-500 heat unit range goes right along with keeping those last bolls stress free for the first 20 days after they are set. In most years we will accumulate 400-500 heat units in 20 days. After about 40 days then the bolls can undergo much more stress without affecting them as much. This should be the point in which your soil moisture is starting to rapidly decline. You want to finish the season with enough left that the plant will actively take up your defoliant and drop its leaves but not so much that regrowth will be a problem.

FINAL SCOUTING FOR INSECTS

Fortunately we have pretty well reached the point of no longer having to scout much for insects in most fields around the area. The rule of thumb for checking for pests at the end of the season is based on heat units just like most everything else in cotton. With lygus bugs, which was a new pest for us this season, you can stop checking once the crop has accumulated 350 heat units beyond cutout. Bollworms are the same, 350 heat units beyond cutout. For stink bugs we need to check a little longer. For stink bugs it is approximately 450 heat units beyond cutout. This would be around 18-20 days after cutout this year. The reason we stop scouting at this time is that there are not enough susceptible bolls that the insects can feed on still on the plant that will contribute enough to the final yield and make an application cost effective. There can be exceptions to this depending on potential yield, price, and fruiting positions of the crop. However, this is the general rule of thumb.

DEFOLIATION

With defoliation quickly upon us I will be getting out some trials to try and get an idea of what may and may not work this year and how we can get this done as cheaply as possible. The Lubbock Research and Extension Center has a [Harvest Aid Decision Budget](#) to assist putting together your defoliation mixes and they have the [2022 Texas High Plains Cotton Harvest Aid Guide](#). The 2023 guide should be released shortly.

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.

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/>



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.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

 **TEXAS
IPM**
Partners with Nature

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