



TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

SOUTHERN BLACKLANDS

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

WILLIAMSON AND MILAM COUNTIES

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GENERAL SITUATION

It appears that summer time has arrived again! Hot, dry, windy conditions appear to be here for good this time. These conditions are great for those wanting to begin harvesting grain soon, but some cotton producers would like to see one more good soaking area-wide rainfall within the next week to help finish off their cotton crop.

COTTON

Scouts have found the first open bolls early this week. Most cotton in the area is still filling bolls with some later cotton just beginning setting bolls. Growers in areas that received the most rainfall over the past few weeks see their cotton putting on upwards to 12 to 18 inches of growth or more in those areas over that time period. This is generally the areas south of Coupland towards Elgin and Manor and north of Buckholts and Rogers. It would of been beneficial to curtail some of that vegetative growth with the use of PGRs, but most were just thankful to get the rain and get some added growth, but not the excessive growth.

In general, however, most areas only received marginal rainfall and have not seen any excessive growth.

Many producers with more mature cotton are excited about seeing the high fruit counts, especially number of bolls per foot on their scouting reports. Although, I am optimistic that yields will be above average for the most part, especially on the earlier planted, more mature cotton, I think everyone ought to realize that the overall size of bolls varies greatly in fields and from field to field. Lots of bolls have just been set following bloom and depending on how much sub-surface moisture is available will determine how well those fill-out. However, what concerns me even more in many cases is that there is greater numbers of smaller, older, mature bolls that did not develop as large as we would like to see. Often times, we can find parrot-beaked bolls where one or two locks did not develop. Also, there is a wide range in number of seed per boll in many fields.

