



TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

SOUTHERN BLACKLANDS

***PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS***

WILLIAMSON AND MILAM COUNTIES

VOL XXVI NO. 8

June 15, 2006

*Dale A. Mott*

Dale A. Mott  
EA-IPM  
3151 S.E. Inner Loop  
Suite A  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
Office Phone: 512/943-3300  
512/352-3661, Ext.4400  
Fax: 512/943-3301  
E-Mail: [d-mott@tamu.edu](mailto:d-mott@tamu.edu)  
Internet Address:  
<http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu/>  
<http://www.tpma.org>



**Index:**

General Situation

Grain Sorghum

Cotton

Stiles Farm Field  
Day

Williamson County  
Crops Tour

Milam County  
Crops Tour

**GENERAL SITUATION**

Hot, dry conditions continue to persist across the Southern Blacklands thus far into June. With the above average temperatures and limited soil moisture, crops are maturing quicker than normal. Some fields of corn look like they will be mature enough to harvest by very early July, although it appears that the yield potential for much of this years grain crop will be well below average. In general, the cotton crop has reached cutout, except for the late/re-planted cotton that is just beginning to square.

**GRAIN SORGHUM**

The majority of grain sorghum fields currently range between soft and medium dough. The high temperatures and limited moisture are hastening sorghum maturity. There is still a grain sorghum in some fields that has not completed flowering as of now and should be closely monitored for sorghum midge. Headworms are being reported at levels that are above economic thresholds in some fields in the Granger area, thus triggering insecticide applications. Stink bug levels, in general, appear to be lighter than normal for this point of the season. There have been a few reports of some higher levels of stink bugs around the edges of fields, but I have not seen any economic important levels throughout entire fields thus far.

**COTTON**

The cotton crop continues to make rapid progress. The cotton ranges from 5-6 true leaves to bolls about 1 1/4 inch in size. In general, giving the stage we are in the season with the blooming cotton ranging from nodes above white bloom 8 down to 3, boll size development appears to be limited and it appears we are going to see boll size much smaller bolls than normal.

June 15, 2006

It appears we have finally made it out of the **thrips** damage window on all the cotton in the Williamson-Milam Co. Pest Management Program as of now.

**Aphids** are still increasing in levels in a number of fields. But for the most part, infested fields that needed to be treated have been sprayed and therefore aphid levels are generally decreasing across the region over the past week. It appears that treatments have been providing between 10 to 20 days control of aphid populations, depending on insecticide, rate used and level of beneficials remaining in the fields following treatment(s).

**Cotton fleahopper** levels range from 4 to 36 per 100 plants checked. The only cotton that is still susceptible to fleahoppers are the late planted fields that have yet to reach first bloom. Fleahopper levels are not high in all fields, therefore, be sure and monitor each field separately to determine which fields have treatable levels of cotton fleahoppers.

**Bollworm/budworm** egg counts remained low over the past week with egg counts ranging from 0-4 per 100 plants and worm counts ranging from 0-12 per 100 plants checked. The higher levels of worms were found in non-Bt cotton. Most fields of cotton are averaging 0-3 per 100 plants checked. Higher numbers of adult bollworm moths are being sighted in cotton fields over the past week; as a result, it will be interesting to monitoring bollworm egg laying over the next week and see if they increase correspondingly. With the temperatures hitting the upper 90's to 100 degrees and no rain in sight, I would expect the moths to lay a good portion of the eggs lower in the plant canopy. Therefore, performing whole plant inspection for eggs and small larvae will be important to get a good assessment of actual bollworm activity over the remainder of the season.

**Beet armyworm** activity remains light this week with a few individual worms being found.

Very low levels of **spider mites** have been found for the first time in a few fields over the past week. As I mentioned in last weeks newsletter, current conditions favor the outbreak of spider mites, therefore, avoid any unnecessary insecticide applications as they can trigger a spider mite outbreak.

**Stink bug** are being found at low levels in some fields. We have found a few stink bug egg masses, but have not found any skink bug damaged bolls this week in the pest management program fields. Unless we were to get some significant rainfall over the next few weeks, I do not expect stink bug to present much of a problem this season.

Southern Blacklands Boll Weevil  
 Eradication Program  
 Trap Count Information for  
 Week ending June 11, 2006

|     | <u>2006</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| YTD | .025        | .0733       | .0639       | .0675       | .8232       |

- Avg # of boll weevils per trap

| <b>Week Ending</b> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 5/14/06            | .0442       | .0148       | .0529       | .0371       | 1.4014      |
| 5/21/06            | .0302       | .0443       | .0792       | .0298       | .5374       |
| 5/28/06            | .0301       | .1435       | .0269       | .0911       | .3617       |
| 6/4/06             | .0178       | .0584       | .0336       | .1317       | .3603       |
| 6/11/06            | .0315       | .1156       | .1161       | .0692       | .7653       |

