

July 12th, 2016

Weather Watch - 2016

Lubbock County experienced a cool beginning to the 2016 growing season in May. June temperatures were more typical, with below average rain. Beginning July 4th, this month has been “hot as a firecracker” with July 7th tying a record high for the month of 109 degrees. As of this writing, we are running above normal HU accumulation, and below average rainfall. <http://www.cottonheatunits.com/heat/default.aspx>

Month	Rainfall	Days at or >100	Peak Wind Gust
April	1.02	0	52
May	3.66	0	58
June	1.04	2	79
(July 11 th)	0.29	5	63

Crop Situation

Cotton

The Lubbock County cotton crop looks good, even though it is slightly late. However, a few fields have blooms present, and many more will be blooming by July 18th. Early Bloom stage is often referred to as the “management moment” when producers can assess the yield potential, and possibly make

corrections for a strong finish. Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF) at early bloom is a good indicator of yield potential.

7 NAWF is common in most High Plains Varieties.

8 NAWF= good yield potential.

9-10 NAWF= may be a candidate for a growth regulator. Check plant height, square set, and height to node ratio to help conclude this decision.

5-6 NAWF= Premature cut-out is imminent. Consider irrigation / fertilization, if feasible.

<5 NAWF= physiological cut-out.

Corn

Corn acres in Lubbock County appear to be up somewhat. We will know officially after the certification period ends. Corn ranges from tassel to milk stage. Beginning at tassel is a 4 week period that is critical to growth and development. Without a doubt, the most critical time is at silking. During silking, it takes 24 hours for a pollen grain to grow down the silk and fertilize the egg. Generally, 2 to 3 days are required for all silks to be fertilized on a single ear. Extremely hot temperatures can affect pollination, so ears should be checked at this time. http://publications.tamu.edu/CORN_SORGHUM/P

[UB_Corn%20Development%20and%20Key%20Gr
owth%20Stages.pdf](#)

Remember that corn heat units (or growing degree days) are calculated differently than cotton heat units. While cotton has a base temperature threshold of 60 degrees, corn's base temperature is lower at a base of 50. However, corn has an upper temperature threshold of 86 degrees. Heat stress in corn is affected by several factors, including soil moisture, humidity, wind, and sunlight intensity.

Sorghum

Sorghum acres are down in Lubbock County compared to last year, largely due to price differences and concerns over sugarcane aphids. According to Katelyn Kowles, EA-IPM for Lubbock-Crosby Counties, no sugarcane aphids have yet been documented in Lubbock County sorghum fields. However, they have been found in the San Angelo area as well as Oklahoma. When calculating sorghum growing degree days, the same base temperature as corn (50 degrees) is used; but sorghum is more heat tolerant than corn with an upper threshold of 100 degrees.

Important Deadlines:

July 15 – crop acreage certification with Farm Services Agency (FSA). This year, there will be a late file fee imposed after the certification deadline.

Aug 5 – deadline to sign up for the Cotton Ginning Assistance Program through FSA.

Oct 4- end of comment period for EPA's draft ecological risk assessment on triazine herbicides including atrazine and propazine. For more information from National Sorghum Producers, see their Sorghum Action Alert:

<http://sorghumgrowers.com/sorghumalert/>

Upcoming Events:

Aug 1-3 Annual Beef Cattle Short course in College Station. (Largest beef educational event in the country).

Aug 4 Cotton Fiber Quality Conference begins at 8 a.m. at Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center. There is no charge (due to sponsor support) to attend this program, but an RSVP is requested to your local County Extension Office (806/ 775-1740) by August for lunch accommodations.

<http://today.agrilife.org/2016/07/08/quality-takes-center-stage-in-upcoming-cotton-fiber-quality-conference-aug-4-in-lubbock/>



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