

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley,
Cochran, and
Lamb Counties
from
Kerry Siders

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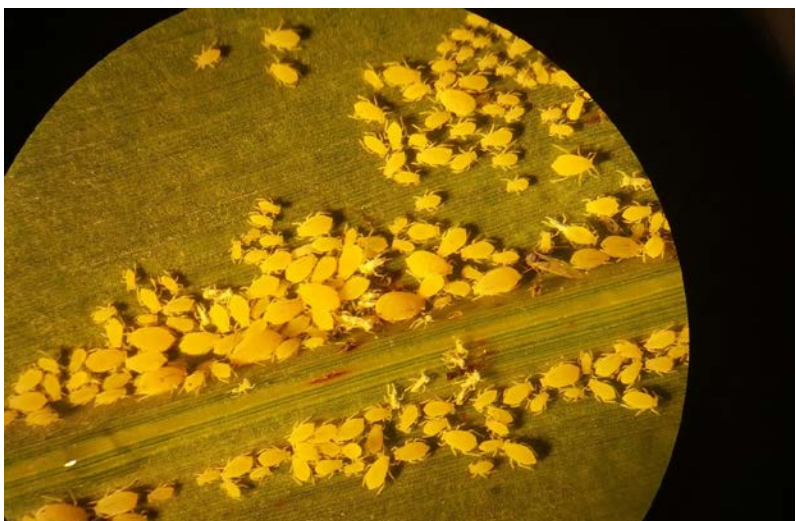
General Situation

Cotton is averaging 15 total nodes, 19" total plant height, with the top 4 nodes at 1.7" in length, first fruiting node at 7, and 7 nodes above white flower. All squares which have a chance of making a bloom which will subsequently develop into a harvestable boll have all been formed now. Any squares formed from this point should not have sufficient time and heat units to develop into a harvestable boll. Remember, August 15-20 is our last effective bloom dates from west to east in Cochran and Hockley, and from north to south for Lamb to Hockley Counties. So we have near three weeks of bloom, which would calculate to approximately 7 first position bolls being formed if weather cooperates. Fleahoppers and Lygus have been very active in some areas as alternative host plants (weeds) are drying and are being shredded or disked. No other pests have been noted in cotton.

Peanuts are doing very well in both health and growth and development. Pods are gaining size, pegs are still developing, and flowering is beginning to slow somewhat.

Early corn is nearing the end of its irrigation period. Some disease issues have been noted, but seem to have slowed with current weather pattern. **Later planted corn** is at various stages. Irrigation is critical under the current weather. No major pests concerns at this time.

Grain sorghum has sugarcane aphid, yellow sugarcane aphid, spider mites, and limited head worms. Be sure to scout frequently and determine infestation level of these pests. Be sure you know how to identify a sugarcane aphid (see picture below) from other aphids. For more information on the sugarcane aphid I would encourage you to attend one of the meetings scheduled in Hockley, Lamb and Cochran Counties starting Wednesday July 22nd through August 10th. Another resource is this web blog: <http://txscan.blogspot.com/> Good luck.



Sugarcane Aphid Turnrow Meeting Schedule

Sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Kerry Siders, Extension Agent – Integrated Pest Management
Hockley, Cochran, & Lamb Counties

Learn more about this new grain sorghum pest and how to manage!



Wednesday, **July 22**, 9:00am, Wilbur Ellis-Levelland

Thursday, **July 23**, 8:30am, Platinum Bank Levelland (sponsored by Farmers Coop Elevator, Levelland)

Friday, **July 24**, 9:00am, CHS-Anton

Monday, **July 27**, 9:00am, AG Products, Levelland

Tuesday, **July 28**, 8:00am, CHS-Ropesville

Wednesday, **July 29**, 9:00am, Olton Ag Pavillion

Thursday, **July 30**, 9:00am, Farmers Coop – Sudan

Monday, **August 3**, 8:30am, Lamb County Ag Center, Littlefield

Tuesday, **August 4**, 7:15am, Wilbur Ellis – Earth

Thursday, **August 6**, 8:30am, Lewis Farm & Ranch, Morton

Monday, **August 10**, 8:30am, Extension Office – Cochran Co. Activity Room, Morton

One TDA CEU in IPM will be provided

Contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, at 806-638-5635 for additional information or to request any special accommodation relating to hearing impairment or other special needs.

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The aphid that damages sorghum is taxonomically indistinct to the sugarcane aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*), and it might be a new biotype that switched hosts or an invasive species recently introduced into the United States.



Corn leaf aphid



Yellow sugarcane aphid



Sugarcane aphid



Greenbug aphid

Scouting Sugarcane Aphids

Timing effective treatment to control sugarcane aphids (SCA) in sorghum depends on the size of the SCA population. To estimate the number of SCA in a field, follow these steps for scouting the field and use the **Sampling Protocol** (below) and the **Quick Aphid Checker** (on back) to make treatment decisions.

First Detection: Is the Field at Risk?

- Once a week, walk 25 feet into the field and examine plants along 50 feet of row.
- If honeydew is present, look for SCA on the underside of a leaf above the honeydew.
- Inspect the underside of leaves from the upper and lower canopy from 15–20 plants per location.
- Sample each side of the field as well as sites near Johnsongrass and tall mutant plants.
- Check at least 4 locations per field for a total of 60–80 plants.

If no SCA are present, or only a few wingless/winged aphids are on upper leaves, continue once-a-week scouting.

If SCA are found on lower or mid-canopy leaves, begin twice-a-week scouting. Use the Sampling Protocol and the Quick Aphid Checker to determine if aphid densities exceed the economic threshold.

Sampling Protocol: Making Treatment Decisions

Examine the underside of one completely green leaf from the lower canopy and the uppermost leaf (or the leaf below the flag leaf at boot to heading) and estimate the number of SCA per leaf, using the Quick Aphid Checker. Examine 2 leaves from each of 5 random plants per location. Repeat at 4 locations, for a total of 40 leaves. Use the Quick Aphid Checker to calculate the mean number of aphids per leaf.

- If the field average SCA infestation is **50–125 aphids or more per leaf**, apply an insecticide within 4 days and evaluate control after 3–4 days. Consider treatment at 50 aphids per leaf if limited to once-a-week scouting.
- If the SCA infestation is less than the threshold level, continue scouting twice a week.

Adult Sugarcane Aphid



Immature Sugarcane Aphid



Winged Adults



Monitoring Sorghum for the Sugarcane Aphid:



Quick Aphid Checker

Estimate the number of sugarcane aphids (SCA) per leaf to help time foliar insecticides for SCA control on sorghum. Each photo represents an estimate from the table. For example, photo A shows about 12 aphids.

Estimate the Number of Aphids per Leaf		
Photo	Range	Estimate
A	1-25	12
B	26-50	38
C	51-100	75
D	101-500	300
E	501-1000	750
F	>1000	1500
Field Average = $\frac{\text{Total of All Estimates}}{\text{Total \# of Leaves Examined}}$		

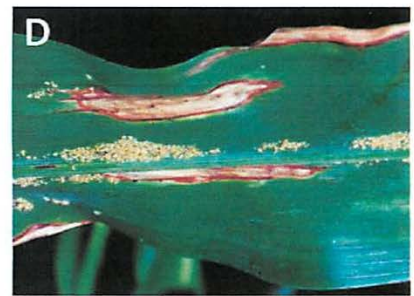
Learn more about sugarcane aphids at
<http://txscan.blogspot.com>

Photos courtesy of Travis Ahrens, Mike Brewer, and Pat Porter.

Funding provided by the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board and the USDA NIFA Southern IPM Center and Crop Protection and Pest Management Program.

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Private Pesticide Applicators Training

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Levelland on August 27. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individuals must call 806-894-3150 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the training on August 27 in Levelland. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the training; testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

Future PAT Trainings:

- August 27 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- September 24 Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- and October 22 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of trainings.

See You On The Radio

IPM Radio Program Aglife on Fox Talk KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:15 pm.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Hockley County Report on KLVT Levelland, High Plains Radio Network, radio 1230 AM, Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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