

General Situation

The earliest planted cotton and peanut fields are starting to bloom and form small pods, respectively.



Some peanut fields are pegging and starting to form small pods, while other peanut fields have not formed any pegs.



Weeds are still the main concern at this time.

We are starting to find light populations of cotton fleahoppers. The action threshold for fleahoppers is 25-30 per 100 terminals along with a poor square set.

July 3 & 4 brought scattered showers to the county. Rain ranged from 0 to 1+ inches. The town of Seminole did not receive any rainfall. The whole county is in desperate need of a good soaking rainfall that lasts for several days. Most dryland fields are hanging on and waiting for the next good rain.

Due to spotty showers and varying pumping capacities, there are huge differences in the irrigated crop stages and development. Cotton ranges from pre-squaring to blooming.



fleahopper adult

Scentless plant bug (top) should not be confused with a Lygus bug (bottom)



fleahopper nymph

Fleahopper adult (top) and nymph (bottom)



We continue to find light populations of beet armyworms and boll worms in peanuts and non-Bt cotton. We are also finding an occasional cotton square borer. Beneficial insects (including spiders, big-eyed bugs, lacewings, and ladybird beetles) are relatively abundant right now and they are keeping most insect pests at bay.

Since a majority of the cotton is squaring, we need to keep a close eye out for fleahoppers, lygus, bollworms, and other square damaging pests.



I would like to thank the Gaines County TPMA/IPM Steering Committee for their help in determining our local priorities and developing the following research trials.

I also would like to thank the following producers for planting the 2012 Gaines County IPM Program Research Trials.

Research Trial	Farm
Cotton Variety Trial Under Nematode Pressure	Scott Nolen Farms
Long Season Variety Trial Under Limited Water	Cheuvront Farms
Cotton Variety Trial Under Verticillium Wilt Pressure	Froese Farms
Cotton Production Under Drag Hose vs Sprinkler Irrigation	Shelby Elam Farms
Cotton Variety Trial Under Dryland Production	Cody Walters Farms
Use of Seed Treatments & Vydate C-LV for the Management of Nematodes	Raymond McPherson Farms
Use of Seed Treatments, Varieties, and Vydate C-LV for the Management of Nematodes	Otis Johnson Farms (Dr. Terry Wheeler lead researcher)
Cotton Variety Trial Under Fusarium Wilt Pressure	Cheuvront Farms (Dr. Jason Woodward lead researcher)
Bayer CropScience Irrigated CAP Trial	Ricky Mills Farms
Bayer CropScience Irrigated CAP Trial	Cheuvront Farms
Bayer CropScience Irrigated GLT CAP Trial	Chuck Rowland Farms
Monsanto Irrigated FACT Trial	Tim Neufeld Farms
Monsanto Irrigated FACT Trial	Marcus Crow Farms
Phytogen Innovation Trial	Froese Farms
Peanut Pod Rot Research	Otis Johnson Farms (Dr. Terry Wheeler & Dr. Jason Woodward lead researcher)



Above is a picture of the drag hose vs sprinkler irrigation demonstration trial. Due to the excessive heat, lack of rainfall, lower pumping capacities, and windy days, the Gaines County IPM Steering Committee felt that drag hoses should be looked at as an option for more efficient water management.

Plant Growth Regulators

A majority of the cotton fields will likely not need a Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) application this year. However, there are a few cotton fields that have above normal pumping capacities and they are starting to show signs of excessive growth (long internodes).

The internode (the portion of stem between the nodes) is very sensitive to environmental and plant conditions, making the length of the internodes a reliable indicator of plant growth. A long internode indicates favorable conditions and the potential for excessive growth. A short internode shows that the plant was stressed when the internode was developing.

Plant growth regulators (PGR) are used to limit vegetative growth and produce a more compact plant. Since PGRs reduces plant growth, do not apply it if the plants are already under stress.

Determining whether or not a field needs a PGR application is difficult. There are several

factors that need to be taken into consideration. First, is there excessive growth present and is this a variety that has high growth potential (visit with your seed company representative to determine which varieties should be watched closely for PGR needs)? Second, applications should begin when 50% of the plants have one or more matchhead squares (see specific product label for more information). Third, it is best to get a handle on excessive growth potential early if conditions favor excessive growth. Fourth, will the conditions for excessive plant growth be present for an extended period of time, or will mother nature apply a natural PGR (high temperatures and no rainfall)? July and August have been known to be pretty brutal on the High Plains.

In 2008 & 209 we conducted Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) trials in Gaines County. Neither of these trials showed an increased yield with the use of PGRs, however, one of them should a difference in plant height (the results from these trials can be viewed at <http://gaines.agrilife.org/publications/cotton/>).

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Manda Anderson
101 S. Main Rm 111
Seminole, TX 79360

Phone: 432-788-0800
mganderson@ag.tamu.edu

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