



Gaines County IPM Newsletter

Volume VI, No. 3

General Situation

The dry conditions and the late freezes have delayed much of the planting. Farmers who are usually close to finishing planting by this time, still have several days worth of fields to plant. We have yet to see any significant rainfall.

Peanut stages range from cracking to fully emerged.



Cotton stages range from seed still in the bag to cotton with 1 true leaf.



Be on the look out for thrips, wireworms, and emerging weeds. We have seen several species of weeds emerging including: Russian thistle (tumbleweed), morning glory, and palmer amaranth (pigweed). Depending on field conditions, pigweed can grow more than an inch a day.

Thrips

The thrips action threshold is an average of one thrips per true leaf through the fifth true leaf stage. Once cotton has five true leaves it is usually considered to be past the point that thrips can cause economic damage.

We have seen very low thrips pressure in the fields that we are scouting. However, producers still need to scout their fields at least weekly for developing thrips populations, especially during the first few weeks after emergence. Waiting on weeds to emerge so you can apply your insecticide with glyphosate could result in thrips damaged cotton. The effectiveness of a thrips application all depends on the timing of the application. Insecticides need to be applied when thrips have reached threshold. If you wait until noticeable damage has occurred, then you have likely missed your window of opportunity and your insecticide application could be nothing more than a revenge treatment.

When scouting for thrips, be sure to tease open leaves, because thrips like to hide in the curled up leaves.

Fields with insecticide seed treatments also need to be scouted. Seed treatments will likely only provide protection for 18-21 days (starting from the day of planting).

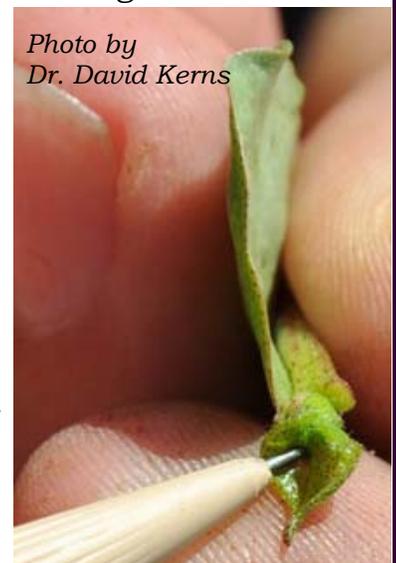


Photo by
Dr. David Kerns

Depending on growing conditions, fields may still be in susceptible stage when the seed treatment has played out. If you find immature thrips on cotton that had an insecticide seed treatment, then this is a good indication that the seed treatment has worn off, colonization is occurring, and a foliar insecticide may be justified.

IPM Radio Program

Be sure to tune in to the IPM Radio Program on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 on AM 950. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Agents from Bailey, Parmer, Hale, Swisher, Hockley, Cochran, Terry, Yoakum, Lynn, Dawson, and Gaines Counties discuss current pest pressures, crop stage and development, and upcoming meetings.

On-line Resources —

<http://gaines.agrilife.org/> Gaines County IPM Newsletters and 2012 Gaines County Research Trials Results

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus-newsletter/> - Focus on South Plains Newsletter and 2012 South Plains Research Trial Results

<http://ipm.tamu.edu/> Texas IPM Program and Links to other IPM websites

<http://peanut.tamu.edu/> Peanut Progress Newsletter and Results from the 2012 Peanut Research Trials

<http://www.tpma.org/> Texas Pest Management Association website. Click on "IPM in Texas" for a link to other IPM Newsletters from around the state

Gaines County Integrated Pest Management Blog —

<http://agrilife.org/gainesipm/>

Be sure and subscribe to the blog if you would like to receive a notification when there is a new post. Subscribing is easy...just enter your email address in the subscription box on the right hand side of the blog page. You will then receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription.

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**Gaines County IPM Blog
<http://agrilife.org/gainesipm/>**

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