



Gaines County IPM Newsletter

Volume VI, No. 4

General Situation

The storms that have blown through Gaines County have brought a lot of blowing sand and very little measurable rainfall. Due to a lack of rainfall, we will likely see no dryland production in 2013.

On the irrigated side of things, the relentless winds, blowing sand, and low pumping capacities have added to the difficulty of getting a stand established during a drought. Once a stand is established, the new challenge is to keep the stand up and growing. Getting the pivot around quickly enough, while applying enough water to keep the plants alive, has been a chore in itself for most producers. Fields with no cover crop have the most wind damage. While fields with a cover crop seem to be holding up a little better.

Cotton stages range from seed just planted to squaring cotton, with a majority of the cotton in the cotyledon to 2 true leaf stage. The cotton is a little behind where it normally is this time of the year. Usually most of our cotton is in the 2-4 true leaf stage at this point.

Peanuts are looking good. However, getting a good canopy established will be challenging. Nevertheless, large canopies will be essential to this year's production. A larger canopy will be more conducive for higher humidity during the blooming period. High temperatures, moisture stress, and low humidity during the blooming period can have a severe impact on the flowering response, limiting the number of flowers produced and reducing flower pollination.

The drought, blowing sand, and weeds continue to be our young plants' worst enemies.



Herbicide/Weed Management Turn-Row Discussions

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Weed Management Research Assistant, Rand Merchant, is working with Gaines County producers to evaluate the effectiveness of preplant incorporated herbicides applied in conjunction with and without preemergence herbicides. On Friday, June 14 we will visit each herbicide trial for approximately 30 minutes to discuss the herbicide applications and weed control response. Due to the fact that there were differences in tillage practices and weed pressure, we are seeing different levels of weed control at each location. Growers can gain valuable information from each location. Feel free to come to all three locations or stop in at one or two of the locations. The locations and times are below.

Friday, June 14, 2013

9:00 AM - Doyle Fincher Farm
(1.5 Miles North of CR 213 & Hwy 62/180 Intersection)

10:00 AM - Roy Johnson Farm
(1.6 Miles West of CR 305 & CR 302 Intersection)

11:00 AM - Otis Johnson Farm
(1.5 Miles West of Hwy 385 & Ranch Road 2885 Intersection)

1 CEU Provided

Maps to each location are located on my blog:
<http://agrilife.org/gainesipm/2013/06/06/june-14-2013-herbicideweed-management-turn-row-discussions/>

Thrips

The thrips threshold is one thrips per true leaf through the fifth true leaf stage. Thrips numbers have been below threshold levels in the IPM Scouting Program fields. However, we have seen a few fields in which the

threshold should be lowered due to the fact that the plants are already suffering from environmental damage, such as wind and blowing sand. In these cases, producers may consider lowering their thresholds to 1/2 thrips per true leaf if they are seeing immature thrips in the already damaged fields. The immature thrips indicate that the thrips are reproducing in their field. The thrips feeding damage along with the environmental damage will set the plants back and slow their growth and development.

Scouting fields on a weekly basis will help you to accurately monitor thrips populations and help you to determine whether leaf damage is being caused by thrips feeding, or wind/blowing sand, or a combination of both. Never make a treatment based solely on leaf damage, only treat if thrips are still present and the population has reached the economic threshold.

Thrips are definitely out and about and looking for an attractive crop. Tuesday evening my husband and I were standing outside next to my white truck (thrips are attracted to white), when a swarm of thrips sadly mistaken us for a crop. Needless to say our outdoor time came to an abrupt ending.

Kurtomathrips

Earlier this week I found an adult Kurtomathrips on a cotyledon stage cotton plant. There is no need to sound the alarm, however, this does mean that we could possibly see Kurtomathrips earlier this year, and a large Kurtomathrips population would likely be devastating on young cotton plants. Seed treatments would likely control this pest up to the point that the seed treatment starts wearing off. In 2011, we conducted three insecticide trials in Gaines County. Our data suggest that Trimax Pro (imidacloprid), Orthene (acephate), Intruder (acetamaprid), and Centric (thiamethoxam) all have excellent activity on this thrips. Please feel free to contact me if you suspect that you may have Kurtomathrips in your fields. I will come out and determine what type of thrips are present.



Photo By Dr. David Kerns

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

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