August 27, 2013

Texas IPM
Partners With Nature

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Gaines County IPM Newsletter

Volume VI, No. 11

Cotton General Situation

Cotton ranges from 0 to 6 Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF), with a majority of the fields at 1-3 NAWF. Most cotton fields reached cutout (5 NAWF) during the last three weeks and several fields have started to shed squares and small bolls. Open bolls have been observed in a couple of fields.

There are several predators (ladybugs, lace wings, minute pirate bugs, collops bettles, etc…) present in fields. We are also picking up very light populations of aphids in cotton fields.

Below is the number of Heat Units (H.U.) accumulated since cutout (5 NAWF), for those fields that reached cutout around August 1, August 8, August 15, and August 22. For example, if your field reached cutout on August 8, then it has accumulated 363 H.U. since cutout.

Date	Accumulated Heat Units
August 1	535
August 8	363
August 15	227
August 22	93

Cotton fields that have <u>not</u> reached 350 H.U. since cutout need to be scouted closely for "worms". Bolls are safe from Lygus and stink bug feeding damage at 450 H.U. accumulated past cutout.

Bollworms/Fall Armyworms in Late Planted Non-Bt Cotton

Last week we saw several bollworm moths and a heavy bollworm egg lay in cotton fields. This week we are seeing bollworm/fall armyworm populations that have exceed threshold levels in some non-Bt cotton. Fields that reached cutout on or prior to August 8 should be safe from bollworms since these fields have accumulated 350+ H.U. since cutout. Late planted non-Bt fields or fields that were delayed early season due to harsh weather conditions, need to be scouted closely for bollworms.

Peanut General Situation

The peanut crop continues to look good. For pod development we are looking at 3-4 weeks from the time the peg enters the soil till the time it reaches full size. Although the pod has reaches full size, kernel development has barely begun. Mature, harvestable pods require 60-80 days of development. Therefore, we have passed the final stage of the season where we can have enough time for a peg to develop into a mature pod. Efforts need to be directed at maturing the current crop load and not at setting more blooms. For that reason, it is time to slow down the pivots and give the field a deeper soaking irrigation.

Spider Mites in Peanut

Spider mites have been seen in a couple of peanut fields. Thorough coverage of the canopy is essential to control an infestation. Often it can take two applications to get satisfactory control of spider mites. Labeled miticides do not kill mite eggs, only adults. If conditions continue to be favorable for spider mite development, and eggs hatch, then the spider mite population can rebound in a few days. Therefore, a second miticide may need to be applied.

Pigweed Removal

Weeds continue to be a major concern for most producers. Large weeds can be seen in cotton fields that did not receive timely applications of overlapping residual herbicides. These weeds have already caused damage to our current crop by competing with the cotton for nutrients and water. However, at this point in the season, we are more concerned about pigweeds causing problems at harvest, and the countless number of pigweed seed that will affect next year's crop. All efforts should be made to remove these weeds and prevent these weeds from producing viable seed.

Kurtomathrips

We are starting to see very light populations of Kurtomathrips in some cotton fields. At this point none of these fields have reached treatable levels. However, all cotton fields need to be monitored closely for this pest. **Below is an excerpt the following publication: Kerns, D.L. and M.G. Anderson. *Occurrence, Impact, and Management of Kurtomathrips morrilli: A New Pest of Cotton on the Texas High Plains.* Journal of Cotton Science.**

Decision making:

Kurtomathrips morrilli is an unusual pest of cotton that appears to occur under hot, dry conditions affecting primarily water-deficit stressed cotton. When making the decision to treat or not to treat consider the following:

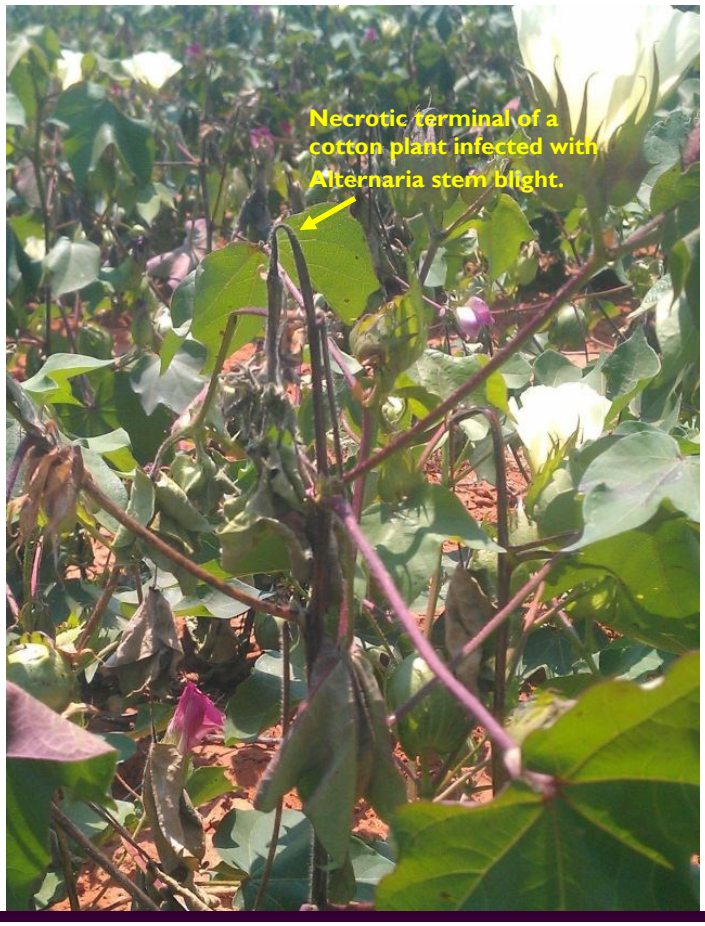
What stage of growth is the cotton?

1. **Check boll maturity.** If the bolls are mature (cutting the boll open and seeds have well defined cotyledons and seed coat versus those which are watery seeds) they may not be significantly damaged by the defoliation. If there are numerous bolls to mature, treatment may be justified. Make sure these immature bolls have the potential to yield enough to cover insecticide and the application expenses.
2. **Choose the right insecticide.** *K. morrilli* do not appear difficult to control with a number of insecticides including acephate, acetamaprid, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam. The most commonly used insecticides in the 2011 *K. morrilli* outbreak were imidacloprid and acephate. These were the insecticides of choice primarily because they were inexpensive, yet effective.
3. **Consider cost saving methods.** Consider multi target applications to save costs. If *K. morrilli* is present and an over the top herbicide application is scheduled, the addition of a relatively inexpensive, yet effective insecticide may save an application trip through the field solely targeting thrips. Spray field edges where *K. morrilli* is abundant and does not appear to be spreading into the field.
4. **What is the weather forecast?** *K. morrilli* appears adversely sensitive to cool temperatures and precipitation. If these conditions are predicted in the immediate future and you have field edges infested, then an insecticide application may not be necessary.

Alternaria Stem Blight in Cotton

We have seen a few fields that have small areas with plants infected with Alternaria stem blight. These spots often look like lightning strikes in fields.

The disease does not spread throughout the field. Infected cotton stems become necrotic and have a curved appearance. It looks similar to a shephards hook.



Little Whitish/Tan Moths

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen large numbers of little whitish/tan moths. These are smartweed borers.

Below is information provided by Dr. Ed Bynum, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomologist, in the August 17, 2013 edition of the Panhandle Pest Update Newsletter.

"The host range for the smartweed borer are primarily different weeds, cocklebur, ragweed, cat-tail and lamb's quarter. But late in the season they can be found in corn, cotton, and goldenrod."

At this point we have not observed any damage associated with this pest.

Upcoming Meetings

Gaines County Ag Tour

Thursday, August 29, 2013
8:00AM-1:00PM Lunch Provided
3 CEUs available
8:00 Registration at the
Gaines County Civic Building, 402 N.W. 5th Street
8:30 Depart for Area Peanut and Cotton Fields.
Further information: Gaines County Extension office, 432-758-4006.

Monsanto/Deltapine Showcase Event

Tuesday, September 17, 2013
10:00AM-2:00PM Lunch Catered by Dickey's
At the Nichols Farm
Located 6 miles SW of Seminole on
FM 181 (Frankel City Highway)
Further information: Doug Stutler at 806-778-4102

Please let me know if there are any other producer field days coming up so that I can include them in my future newsletters.

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Gaines County IPM Blog
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