



News about Integrated Pest Management for producers in Castro and Lamb Counties.

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HAPPENINGS IN AG

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GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Wow what a change in weather over the past two weeks. I looked at my last newsletter and temperatures were hot and dry and it appeared no relief was in site. Now cooler temperatures have dominated the area with rain and unfortunately hail and high winds last weekend. Areas around Dimmitt took a heavy pounding on Saturday night and field crops are heavily damaged in some cases. I would imagine that some of these fields will be failed out and take a 100% loss. On the brighter side of things the moisture we have received has been really helpful and answered the question of whether or not to crank up the pivots on some of the damaged crops. Many producers are kind of in limbo and

not sure how aggressively to manage crops at this point that were damaged by the weather. The recent rains bought us a little more time to assess damage and make better decisions. I have included a link to an Extension Publication that can help guide you through hail damage assessment in corn and grain sorghum. This will give producers a good idea of what to expect in yield reductions from the hail damage.

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/sorghum/pdf/b6014.pdf>

Cotton continues to progress well. Program fields are entering the bloom stage so irrigation requirements will continue to increase. So be sure that you monitor your irrigation amounts and keep track of rain amounts to help make irrigation more efficient. At this time cotton is using between .20 to .25 inches per day. Keep in mind that those numbers will continue to increase as cotton enters the bloom stage. Also remember that it is best to have your total nitrogen applied by the time a field enters bloom stage.

Corn continues to move towards maturity at a fast pace as well. Weather conditions for corn producers have been perfect over the past week with the exception of those areas that got hail. Corn ranges from just tasseling to dough stage. Corn at this time is using between .25 to .30 inches of water per day depending on growth stage and hybrid. Again monitor irrigation and rainfall amounts and check the North Plains ET Network for daily water use amounts. Disease pressures appear to have slowed down over the past two weeks but with the cooler temperatures we saw this week and the moisture we received we could see more foliar disease pressure. Keep in mind however the stage of your crop when making management decisions for diseases. If a plant is near dent stage do you really think that a foliar application of a fungicide is gonna really make that much of difference this late in the game? Think about how much of a gain in yield you would have to make to break even for the price of application and cost of product. Again if you can, use that money for irrigation which we know increases yield.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton

Talk about quiet. We have not had any insect pest pressures to speak of in program cotton fields this week. This appears to be the case for most of the area as other IPM agents here on the high plains are reporting very little insect pest activity as well. At this point in the game lygus bugs and bollworms are our biggest threat but we have not detected any activity from either of those two pest this week. The lygus bug complex may be hanging out more in roadsides and ditches as well as alfalfa fields on more preferable host plants. Bollworm activity in cotton in most seasons picks up in August as area corn fields begin to dry down and not as appetizing as cotton is to the bollworm moths.

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Corn

Insect pest pressures in corn fields are very light at this time. Spider mite populations last week were increasing around the Springlake area. A few program corn fields were treated for spider mites last week. This week spider mite populations are holding below thresholds and mite colonies remain on the lower 1/3 of the plant in most cases. Climatic conditions should help keep mite populations in check but continue to monitor this pest. We did begin finding some Southwestern Corn Borer egg masses in corn fields around the Springlake area this week. One of our traps in that area jumped from 20 moths last week to 195 moths this week. So monitor non-Bt corn fields for southwestern corn borer egg masses as well as small larvae. Remember check 3 leaves below the ear leaf, the ear leaf, and 2 leaves above the ear leaf for egg masses. Egg masses can be laid on either side of the leaf.

Trap Counts:

Location	WBCW	FAW	SWBC
N. Dimmitt	0	6	11
W. Dimmitt	4	8	3
Dodd	0	8	1
Spring Lake	3	21	195
S. Dimmitt	5	0	13

**Happenings in Ag is a publication of Texas AgriLife Extension Service
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