

Caprock Pest Management Newsletter

Dustin Patman, Extension Agent-IPM
201 West Aspen, Suite 011
Crosbyton, Texas 79322
(Office) 806-675-2427
(Cell) 806-319-0888
(Fax) 806-675-2348
drpatman@ag.tamu.edu



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

<http://crosby-tx.tamu.edu>
<http://ipm.tamu.edu>
<http://www.tpma.org>



Partners with Nature

August 30, 2012

Volume 4 No. 8

In This Issue

- **Crop Conditions**
- **Pest Situation**

Current Crop Conditions

The scattered rainfall we received at the end of last week provided us with some short term relief. For the most part the majority of cotton has shed all the small fruit and is rapidly moving into full boll fill.

The first open bolls are now visible in several fields and more will begin to crack and open as we move into next week. This brings us to irrigation termina-

tion. This will be on a field by field basis. Many producers right now can start cutting their water back and in some cases regarding the earlier planted cotton, which is approaching 30% open boll, can terminate irrigation. The game plan right now for a lot of cotton especially the late planted cotton is to continue irrigation from today to September 10th. After the 10th on late planted cotton we will water accordingly. What this means is that after the 10th we will monitor the fields and water if necessary. If it starts to draw down in the late morning to early afternoon we will turn the wells back on. Due to the resistance issue we are facing in the High Plains regarding pigweed, it is very important that producers clean up their fields and not let these weeds go to seed. It doesn't take much moisture to germinate the seeds and after the scattered showers we received last week they are everywhere.

PUMPKINS

Pumpkins are in full stage V and like cotton are on the downward trend to finishing out. Producers have either made their last fungicide application or will start their last soon. The pest situation in pumpkins continues to remain calm with the exception of weeds. I encourage producers to clean these populations out before they go to seed. I will continue to watch for squash bugs and stripped cucumber beetles as they can still cause damage to pumpkins.

Pest Situation



Kurtomathrips damage. Photo courtesy of Dr. David Kerns and Manda Anderson

The pest situation in cotton continues to be very calm. The majority of cotton has moved out of harms way for many insect pests, mainly our caterpillar pests. Producers should still monitor for aphids as they can still cause damage. As fortunate as we have been all season not to have any major problems with insect pests, one pest in particular has decided to rear its ugly head once again. As indicated by the picture you guessed it right, Kurtomathrips are back. They have resurfaced once again. So far this year Kurtomathrips have been reported in Gaines, Hockley, Terry and Lynn Counties. Last year we found them in Crosby County, but at this time I have not picked them up. As we start to back off and terminate irrigation, I highly encourage producers to monitor their cotton crop for this pest.



Adult and immature Kurtomathrips

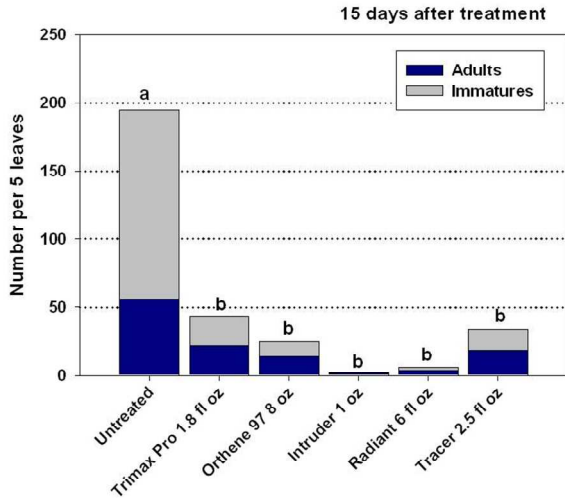
The following is taken from the August 25, 2011 edition of Focus newsletter by former Cotton Entomologist, David Kerns.

This thrips is small, very small; at least half the size of a normal thrips. Chances are, unless you are looking very hard with a magnifying glass, you will not pick these up by just looking. You will in all likelihood see the damage first. Most adults do not have wings and the adult appear to be “sculpted” with brown spots or stripes. Additionally, they do not run around like normal thrips but mostly just sit still or walk slowly.



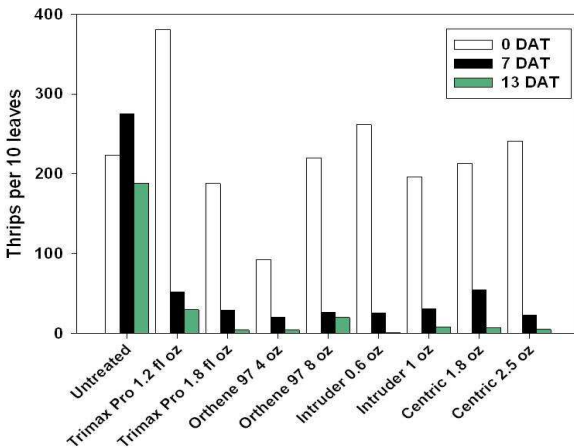
Damage will first show up as bad spots in the field. The damage may look like nematode or lightning strike spots, or just a bad spot in the field that's not getting enough water. They may be present on the plants but not doing very much damage. They seem to be set off by a stress event, usually water related brought on by boll filling and insufficient irrigation. At that time they can quickly spread and cause extensive damage in a matter of days.

Here are some of the results taken from a few insecticide tests that went out last year:



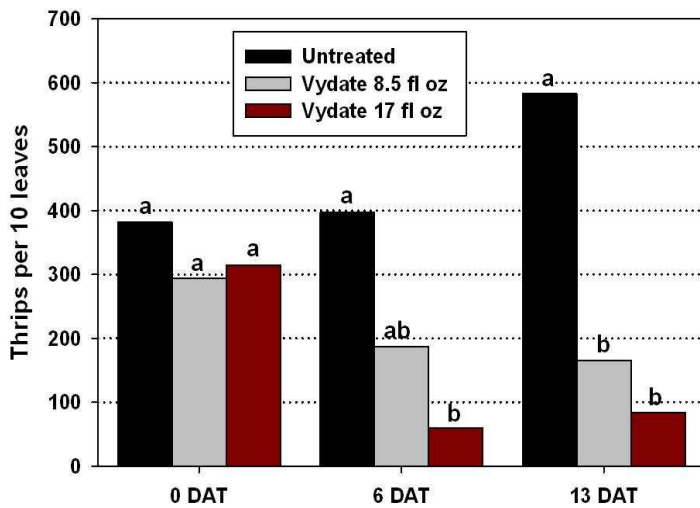
Data shows that we can get good control with a number of products that we already use. Just like other insect pests there is always some decision making.

First check boll maturity: If they are mature they may not be significantly damaged by the defoliation. If you still have many bolls that are not mature, an insecticide application may be justified.



Second will be choosing the right insecticide: Last year the main insecticides used were imidacloprid and acephate. Primarily because they were inexpensive, yet effective.

Third: Kurtomathrips seem to be adversely sensitive to cooler temperatures and precipitation. If we get this weather pattern again and you have field edges infested, an insecticide application may not be necessary.



So again, monitor your field edges and stressed areas of your field. Look for heavy silvering on both sides of the leaf. It may also be a good idea to carry a hand lens of some sort to check the leaves and look to see if the pest is present because they are tiny. If you have any questions regarding this pest or if you think you may have it please give me a call and I will help you in any way that I can. I will continue to watch and monitor for this pest closely.

UPCOMING EVENTS!**West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference**

The annual meeting of the West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute has been scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Scottish Rite Temple - Learning Center, located at 1101 70th Street in Lubbock, (South Loop 289 and Interstate 27). Pre-registration currently is available online at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu/onlineregistration.php>. Registration forms have been mailed. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and \$300 for a booth and must be completed or postmarked by August 31. On-site registration will begin at 7:00am the day of the conference and will cost \$95 for attendees and \$325 for booth sponsors. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has approved a total of 6.5 continuing education units (CEU's) in the areas of IPM (1.0), Pesticide Laws and Regs (1.0), Drift Minimization (1.0) and General (3.5). In addition, the WTACI program has been approved for 4.0, 2.0 and 0.5 hours of Pest Management, Crop Management and Professional Development, respectively. Contact Jason Woodward at 806-632-0762 or jewoodward@ag.tamu.edu for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration contact David Pointer, 806-746-4021 or dlpointer@ag.tamu.edu.

Crosby/Floyd County– 2012 Crop Tour: Thursday, September 13, 2012

Breakfast & Registration 8:30-9am at Triumph Seed, Ralls

Located on Hwy 62 in Ralls

Tour Stops

Grain Sorghum Test near Ralls– Triumph Seed

Cotton Variety Trial Blanco– Appling Farm in Floyd County

Lunch will be provided

3 CEU's Available

(2 General & 1 IPM)

Hear updates on the radio:

IPM Radio Show Ag Talk on Fox Talk KJTV, Radio 950 AM, every Wednesday from 12:30pm-2pm

Dustin Patman
Extension Agent- Integrated Pest
Management Crosby/Floyd Counties

