

## *Caprock Pest Management Newsletter Floyd and Crosby Counties*

*Dagan Teague*

*Date: July 24, 2020*



### **Weather**

This week we have gotten some much needed scattered showers through Floyd and Crosby counties. This is great for the few dryland fields that have made it thus far.

### **Cotton**

It has been pretty quiet in cotton this week. As I said in the newsletter last week we are seeing a few more Lygus, but nothing that is over threshold and worth spraying for yet. This may be a result of the beneficial insect population on the rise. Beneficials have the

capability of keeping pest at bay to a point where the pests are being eaten or killed faster than they can do any damage to the plant. Be sure we are not spraying anything that could affect the beneficial population for this is going to be the best as well as the cheapest pest control.



Lygus Nymph

Lygus bugs are attracted to succulent growth. In cotton, their feeding causes deformed bolls, shedding of squares and small bolls, stunted growth, small black spots or small, dark, sunken lesions on the outer surface of the developing bolls that can penetrate the boll carpel wall and damage developing seeds or lint. Before peak bloom using a sweep net

is the most accurate way to look for lygus. Drop cloth is also another way to sample for lygus. After peak bloom, using a drop cloth, 4-6 per 6ft-row with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks. Using a sweep net 15-20 per 100 sweeps with unacceptable fruit set the first 4-5 weeks.



Lygus adult



Lygus bug nymph to adult



Conchuela stink bug

There has been a few stink bugs, as well as eggs, found in some fields. Stink bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts and damage cotton by piercing the bolls and feeding on the developing seeds. Stink bug infestations can cause substantial economic losses through

reduced yield, loss of fiber quality, and increased control costs. Feeding on young bolls will usually cause the boll to be shed. Larger bolls with feeding damage will appear to have dark spots. The 2 pictures are of the common stink bugs found here.



Green stink bug

Scouting for stink bugs remove about 10 to 20 bolls about the size of a quarter from different parts of the field, avoiding field edges. Check bolls with visible external lesions, dark spots, break open the bolls by hand or cut them with a knife. Then look for internal warts on the boll walls and stained lint on the cotton locks. determine if the internal damage threshold based on boll sampling, treat cotton with an insecticide when stink bugs are present and 20 percent or more of the quarter-size bolls have internal warts or stained lint.

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2020 Adult Bollworm Moth Traps								
Counties	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of July	4 <sup>th</sup> week of July						
Floyd	5	5						
Crosby	5	5						
Hale	21							
Swisher	3							
Castro	109							
Parmer	32							

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