

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

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### **Cotton**

This week our oldest scouted cotton is sitting at 8-9 nodes above white flower. Fruit Retention? We are still seeing fleahoppers in field and with a population increase. As we move farther into bloom and NAWF stages fleahoppers become less of a pest and can actually become a bollworm predator later in the season. This gives us one more reason to not want to treat for fleahoppers unless we must. We also have several fields with enough blooms that the fleahoppers can easily find blooms and the easily accessed pollen to feed upon. Not all of our fields are ready to place the fleahoppers into this category yet. Because some of our later cotton has not bloomed yet and many fields are not blooming consistently, fleahoppers are still a threat for a while longer in these situations.



We are starting to pick up more Lygus in the area while we are still concerned with fleahoppers in some fields. Lygus, while their damage is

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

similar to the fleahopper early in the season, are much more of a threat for a much longer period of time. Lygus will feed on the squares and bolls up to 750 heat units of boll development. This means that Lygus, along with a few stink bugs, which are also in the area, could be a pest well into the fall.

For both fleahoppers and Lygus using a drop cloth paired with whole plant inspections will be the best way to monitor these plant bug populations while accurately calculating fruit drop, or conversely, fruit retention. The threshold for fleahoppers using the drop cloth or sweep net method is 1 fleahopper per 1.5 to 2 row feet, or by the whole plant inspection method, 25-30% infested terminals with associated square loss. This square loss is a bit of a sliding scale starting around 10% fruit loss during the first week of bloom and ending at about 20 to 25% loss for the first week of bloom. Please see our Texas A&M Cotton Insect Guide for specific details.

To the right you can see a fleahopper nymph near some terminals. As you can see it is very small and is the same color as the cotton plant itself.







## Corn

In corn we are seeing some small colonies of spider mites. The colonies can be seen in the mid to lower leaves of the corn plant. You can see the yellowish discoloration on the midrib of the leaf. Spider mites are very, very small and can cause significant damage if the colony numbers get out of control.

“Finding trace amounts of spider mites, which are difficult to find, in some fields. In mature corn the heavier the pressure seems to be an amount to justify application closer to Lockney. Most other fields predict to be at the same pressure next week. Pre-tassel or just starting to tassel corn seems to not have problems yet” says Clay Golden, local consultant.

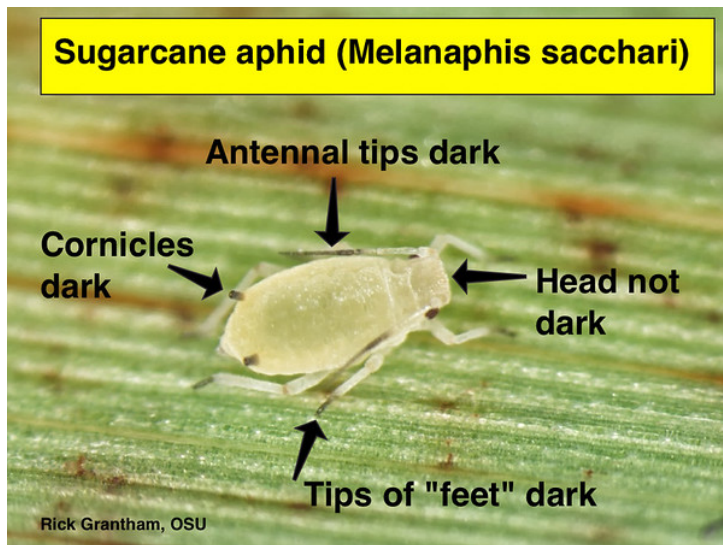


Picture of Banks spider mites



Two spotted spider mite

## Sorghum



“Finding only 1-2 sugarcane aphids West of Croby near the county line around Lorenzo. Nothing to be worried about in the upcoming weeks as the sorghum is only at 6 leaf” says Dakota Keyser, local consultant.

Sorghum damage results from a combination of loss of plant nutrients, and reduced photosynthesis because of the buildup of sooty mold on the honeydew the aphids excrete.

An uncontrolled infestation can reduce the number of heads and seed weight, delay plant development and maturity, and could lead to plant death. In forage sorghum, mold can reduce sorghum quality and honeydew buildup can cause cutting and baling problems.

Grain Sorghum Action Threshold	
Growth Stage	Decision Threshold Specific to the Sugarcane Aphid
Pre-Boot	20% of plants with presence of aphids
Boot	20% of plants infested with 50 aphids per leaf
Flowering–Milk	30% of plants infested with 50 aphids per leaf
Soft Dough	30% of plants infested, localized areas with heavy honeydew, and established aphid colonies
Dough	30% of plants infested, localized areas with heavy honeydew, and established aphid colonies
Black Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies</li> <li>• Treatment only for preventing harvest problems</li> <li>• Important to observe preharvest intervals</li> </ul>

Thresholds according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension High Plains Sugarcane Aphid Management Guide 2016

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

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this year possible!**

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