

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Jones

Mitchell

Nolan

Scurry

Ed Bynum
Extension Agent - IPM
100 E. Third St., Suite 305B
Sweetwater, TX 79556



Office: (325) 236-9011
Mobile: (325) 660-1772
e-mail: e-bynum@tamu.edu
Website: <http://lrpim.tamu.edu>

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**THE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER
FOR THE LOWER ROLLING PLAINS**

May 4, 2005

General Situation

Our March rains provided an abundance of blue bonnets, mallows, sunflowers, and other wild flowers that made for a beautiful and picturesque countryside this spring. However, April turned off dry and we have had our share of windy days. These record breaking conditions have depleted much of the soil moisture that is needed for planting our crops. Hopefully, the rain we received yesterday will be sufficient to allow fields to be planted in a timely manner.

Cotton

Planting for Perfection

Since the Boll Weevil Eradication Program has been so successful in eliminating the Boll weevil there has not been as much of a need to have mandatory planting dates. But, I have been told by producers that cotton should be planted around the middle of May in the Lower Rolling Plains. The Mitchell Co. Ag Committee recently set May 16 as the preferred time for planting in Mitchell Co. When making any decision as to when to plant, you should also consider the 10 day averages for soil temperature. Ideally, cotton should be

planted when the 10 day average minimum soil temperature has reached 60° F. Looking at previous weather data, this 60° F minimum generally occurs during the last half of April and the average minimum soil temperature in May is in the mid 70°'s. Therefore, temperature should not be a major concern, except if there is a cold and rainy period.

A good uniform plant stand and proper plant population for both irrigated and dryland fields are critical for maximizing yields. A seeding rate of 35,000 to 45,000 plants acre with good quality seeds is recommended for a desired 3-3.4 seeds per linear foot on 40 in. center of solid planted cotton. Adjustment should be made for skip row planting. Over planting will cause greater competition later in the season for soil moisture and soil nutrients.

High quality seed is essential to seedling vigor and uniform plant growth. The results of seed germination tests are shown on the label attached to the seed bag. The warm germination test is an indication of seed quality at optimum conditions. Cool germination tests are conducted at 64°F to demonstrate quality for less than optimum conditions. By adding the warm germination and cool germination percentages together, an index for cool-warm vigor can be calculated. Values greater than 160 indicate excellent seed vigor, values between 140 - 160 represents good seed vigor, and any value less 140 is poor seed vigor.

Scout School

The classroom portion of the scout school is from 8:30 am to noon on Monday, June 6 in San Angelo at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center. If you are interested in attending, please contact the IPM

extension office at Ballinger, phone 325-365-5212, to pre-register.

IPM Newsletter Renewal

As we begin to plan for a new season, we need to update our Lower Rolling Plains Pest Management Newsletter mailing list. The newsletter can be mailed to you through the U. S. Postal Service or sent to your e-mail address. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter please contact Ms Treet Broadwell at 325-236-9011 or send an e-mail message to: e-bynum@tamu.edu. When responding, please indicate the method by which you want the newsletter sent.

Survey Fields

We are also organizing the survey program for Jones, Mitchell, Nolan and Scurry Counties and will be selecting field locations that will be representative of the fields within each county. Scouting of these survey fields will be at no cost to the producer. If you would like to have one of your fields considered for this program, separate the form at the bottom of this newsletter and return it to my office.

Pecan

Now is the time to be on the look out for the Pecan Nut Casebearer. This gray to almost black moth is about 1/3 inch long and has a distinctive ridge of dark scales across the fore-wings. Moths generally emerge in May in the Lower Rolling Plains area and will lay eggs on pecan nutlets. Eggs will hatch in 4 to 5 days. Larvae from this first-generation of eggs typically cause the most damage as they feed on nutlets in the spring, but later generations may cause damage.

We have several locations in the area where pheromone-baited traps were placed in trees as a way to monitor moth emergence and activity. **To date, there has not been any moths captured.** This may be due to recent cooler temperatures delaying moth activity. However, moths have been captured earlier this week in the Ft. Stockton area. If you would like to know specifically when moths are active in your trees or orchard, pheromone bait (lure) and traps can be purchased from businesses that

sell pecan supplies. Use a pair of tweezers to place the lure on the sticky surface of the trap, fold the trap as designed and then tie the trap to nut-bearing limb that is at a convenient height to look into the trap.

Once moths do emerge, nutlets should be scouted after 7 to 10 days for presence of eggs and nut entry by larvae. Casebearer eggs are mostly found at the tip of the nutlet, either on the top (stigma) or hidden just under the tiny leaves (sepals) at the tip of the nutlet. A good hand lens will be needed to help see eggs and to determine their development (hatched, white or pink). For commercial orchards, begin examining 10 nut clusters per tree. A cluster is considered infested if it has a casebearer egg or nut entry. If you find two or more infested clusters before you have examined 310 nut clusters, then the infestation is large enough to damage more than 5 percent of the harvest. An insecticide, labeled for pecan nut casebearer control, should be applied within the next few days.

The source for the information about the Pecan Nut Casebearer was obtained from the Texas Cooperative Extension publication, E-173, entitled "Controlling the Pecan Nut Casebearer" by Allen Knutson and Bill Ree. This publication is available for free from the Texas Cooperative Extension bookstore (<http://tcebookstore.org/>).

Pesticide Safety

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is conducting their Texas Country Cleanup Program for disposal of empty plastic pesticide containers (triple rinsed), used motor oil and oil filters, and lead-acid batteries.

Where: Winters, Texas
Diamond B Accessories
1400 S. Main
When: May 17, 2005
Time: 8:00 a.m. to noon
Contact: Marty Gibbs, 325-365-2219

Where: Brownwood, Texas
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Hwy. 377 South
 When: May 18, 2005
 Time: 8:00 a.m. to noon
 Contact: Scott Anderson, 325-646-0386

Where: Wall, Texas
 Wall COOP Gin
 9194 Loop 570 off Hwy. 87 East
 When: May 19 2005
 Time: 8:00 a.m. to noon
 Contact: Steve Sturtz, 325-659-6524

I would like to volunteer one of my fields as a survey field in the Lower Rolling Plains IPM Unit.
 Detach and Send to: Ed Bynum, Texas Cooperative Extension, 100 E. Third St, Ste. 305b, Sweetwater, TX 79556

Region of County
 (circle one)

Name: _____ Phone Number:() _____

Location of Field: _____

County: (circle one) Jones Mitchell Nolan Scurry

NW	NE
Central	
SW	SE