

FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture

Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Lubbock
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Cotton Insects

Thrips

With cotton on the High Plains ranging from some early planted fields beginning to square, to others still being planted, we have a broad range of susceptibility to thrips. For the most part, the thrips populations never got off to a good start in many areas; populations would increase and then be pummeled by heavy rains. Thus it is not surprising that the areas that have an abundance of wheat and did not receive as much rain have tended to have the highest thrips populations. However, there are still a lot of thrips infesting weedy hosts and what little green wheat is left, so we could still see some thrips movement into cotton. As temperatures warm we will see a decrease in the thrips population, and along with the faster growing plants, much of the smaller cotton we currently have will hopefully escape high thrips pressure.

Base treatment decisions on the total number of thrips per plant and the number of true leaves present (even those that have been damaged). The uppermost leaf counted must have started to unfurl. One thrips per plant should be used as the treatment level from plant emergence through the first true leaf stage, and the treatment threshold is one thrips per true leaf thereafter until the cotton has 4 to 5 true leaves. If there was a soil applied insecticide, insecticide seed treatment, or if previously sprayed for thrips with a foliar insecticide, there should be 30% or more immature thrips present to justify a subsequent treatment. The presence of immatures will indi-

cate that colonization is occurring and that the insecticide is playing out. Additionally, I would be much more aggressive on surviving cotton that has suffered from previous weather and thrips damage. This would include lowering the threshold a bit and also the percent immature target. See the [Crop Production Guide Series on thrips](#) for more information on thrips management. We have also posted a [video](#) on recognizing thrips damage in cotton.



Seedling cotton damaged by western flower thrips

Cotton Fleahoppers and *Lygus*

Many cotton fields are beginning to see pinhead sized squares, and thus it is time to watch for cotton fleahoppers and *Lygus*. Surveys of weeds have indicated a variable *Lygus* population and few fleahoppers. *Lygus* populations in weedy areas have dipped somewhat in many areas, but we are still picking up pockets of high populations. Thus far we have not observed significant movement into cotton.

During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 85 per-

cent square set. Starting with the third week of squaring up to first bloom, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 75 percent square set.



Cotton Fleahopper adult and damage

For *Lygus*, during the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is one *Lygus* bug adult or nymph per 3 feet of row combined with less than 90 percent square set. For sweepnet counts, a widely used threshold for *Lygus* is 15 bugs per 100 sweeps.

For more information, Dr. Jim Leser put together an excellent document titled [Cotton Fleahopper Management Tips](#). Additionally, Greg Cronholm has a very good video titled [Tools and Techniques for Sampling Plant Bugs and Fleahopper in Cotton](#).

Saltmarsh Caterpillar

The saltmarsh caterpillar continues to be a common occurrence across the High Plains. Some fields adjacent to CRP lands and other weedy habitats have had large populations moving into them and some have required treatment. So far we have had no reports of damage to Bt cotton varieties. Saltmarsh caterpillars are noto-

riously susceptible to Bt and although data is limited, we suspect that Bt cotton should be resistant. Where non-Bt cotton has required treatment for saltmarsh caterpillar, the pyrethroids appear to be effective.

Pink Bollworm

Pink bollworm moth catches continue to be low in Gaines, Terry and Yoakum counties, but is up from last week. Clyde Crumley, IPM Agent in Gaines County, is reporting an average of 1.33 moths per night with a high of 2.33 moths per night at one location.

Other pests

We have been picking up a few bollworm eggs and larvae scattered about, and well as a few yellow striped armyworm larvae and egg masses. Aphids can still be found but at very low numbers.

Cotton Insect Losses Workshop

On Tuesday, June 19th, we will be sponsoring a training exercise for estimating cotton insect losses. [The agenda is attached](#). We are having Dr. Peter Ellsworth from the University of Arizona in to teach us the model they use for estimating their losses. We intend to go through their model and adapt it to suit the High Plains. This workshop is open to consultants, growers and industry representative who are interested in helping develop a model for the High Plains. The workshop will begin at 11:30 and will conclude at 2:30. Lunch will be provided. There will be 3 CEUs credited for attending this workshop. If you are interested in attending, please contact David Kerns at (806) 746-6101, no later than 2 pm on Monday, June 18th.

Cotton Pests Around the State

Rio Grande Valley (reported by Manda Cattaneo, IPM Agent, Cameron, Hidalgo, and Wilbrey counties)

Bollworm larvae have been ranging from 0 to 7.5 per 100 plants, and we have been noticing a number of beet armyworm hits. Aphid problems have subsided in part to rain fall.

Middle Coastal Bend (reported by Stephen Biles, IPM Agent, Calhoun, Refugio, and Victoria counties)

Cotton ranges from 1/3 grown square to early bloom. Cotton fleahopper have been fairly abundant, but as the cotton ages, our primary pests of concern are aphids, cotton bollworms, tobacco budworms, and stink bugs. Aphids are still being found in some fields and we are anticipating a bollworm egg lay any time.

Southern Blacklands (reported by Dale Mott, IPM Agent, Milam and Williamson counties)

Cotton ranges from pinhead to 1/2 grown squares. Square set has been decreasing and this may be due to fleahoppers. Aphids have been on the increase, while spider mites have dropped to very low levels.

Central Blacklands (reported by Marty Jungman, IPM Agent, Hill and McLennan counties)

Cotton was yellow and slow to grow-off last week due to wet soil conditions. This week cotton has greened up and is growing. Fleahoppers are the main pest of interest. Fleahopper numbers have greatly increased over the last 7 days in a number of fields.

Northern Blacklands (reported by Glen Moore, IPM Agent, Ellis and Navarro counties)

Cotton growth ranges from 2nd true leaf to 1/3 grown square stage. We are continuing to monitor thrips, and aphid numbers have remained light. Fleahoppers have ranged from 1 to 20 per 100 plant terminals. The North Texas Blacklands Boll Weevil Eradication Zone reported 59 overwintering boll weevils caught from 1,536 traps during the first week of June.

El Paso Valley (reported by Slavador Vitanza, IPM Agent, El Paso and Hudspeth counties)

Although the cotton is a little behind it looks good with much of the crop at pinhead to match head sized squares. As of June 8, we have averaged 0.02 pink bollworm moths per trap as reported by the eradication foundation. Thrips have not been a problem this year, but we are closely monitoring for cotton fleahopper.

St. Lawrence Valley (reported by Warren Multer, IPM Agent, Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton Counties)

Saltmarsh caterpillars are still in the area, but are not causing too many problems and thrips are still a threat in the small cotton.

Southern Rolling Plains (reported by Richard Minzenmayer, IPM Agent, Runnels and Tom Green counties).

We are continuing to monitor for thrips, and there is much concern regarding fleahoppers. Cotton fleahoppers are a significant pest in the Concho Valley only 1 out of every 4 or 5 years. This could be one of those years. There is ample weed hosts present and as these weed hosts mature and dry down, fleahopper adults will move into squaring cotton.

Rolling Plains (reported by Ed Bynum, IPM Agent, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry counties)

Cotton planting has been in high gear or the past few weeks. So far pests have been relatively quite, although we are closely monitoring for thrips. Additionally, with the large number of weedy hosts, there is the potential for problems with a number of occasional pests including armyworms, saltmarsh caterpillars, cutworms, and grasshoppers.

DLK

Cotton Agronomy

Overview of Week

Cool, cloudy conditions have persisted across the region. Rainfall was obtained over the previous weekend, again heavy in some areas, which has hampered field operations.

Final planting dates and the 7-day late planting period have come and gone for the June 10 counties. With all of the rainfall and confusion associated with hail and high wind events, I am still unsure as to how much cotton has been lost. Discussions of approximately 200-300 thousand acres have been noted, but due to producers planting back to cotton in some areas, the total acreage lost is still a cliffhanger.



Producers have been covered up with field work, attempting to plant, replant, and sand fight, all on the same day in some instances. After making some observations of crop conditions out there, I noted that significant weed pressure is building in some fields. Weed size is critical for some weed species for some herbicide systems such as Liberty Link/Ignite 280 SL. Also, I noted that some fields planted in mid-May are lagging behind others planted a week later. One of our trials planted at Halfway is now at the four-leaf stage and looks excellent. Other projects are lagging behind due to [cool temperatures](#), severe weather impact, and some seedling disease. However, I observed a late-April planted field on the state line in western Gaines County and that field was beginning to square.

When checking the 10-day forecast, we still do not have many days expected to be above 90 degrees for that time period. For a May 1 planting date, heat unit accumulation is now at about 380 for Lubbock which is about 23% below normal. ([View graphics of 2007 heat unit accumulation](#) and [2007 vs. 2004, 2005 and 2006 heat unit accumulations](#).) The 2007 crop is significantly behind schedule in most areas of the High Plains.

Roundup Original Max Weather Max Label Issues

Monsanto's brands of glyphosate including Roundup Original Max and WeatherMax are formulated as potassium salts. Roundup Weather Max has quicker rainfastness (only 30 minutes required as per the sales literature). In 2006, the Roundup Weather Max and Original Max formulations were "tweaked" for Roundup Ready Flex cotton. The label for Roundup Ready and Roundup Ready Flex cotton are contained in the [Original Max](#) and [Weather Max](#) labels. **Only the glyphosate formulations with the orange "starburst seal" on the label should be used in Roundup Ready Flex cotton due to the potential of experiencing leaf burn with other formulations.** Read and follow the label, as it has much

critical information. Remember that the Roundup Original Max and Weather Max have a higher acid equivalent (a.e.) / gallon (at 4.5 lb per gallon) than many other glyphosate products.

Best control is generally obtained from Roundup Original Max and Weather Max when most weeds are small (less than 3 inches). For hard to control weeds such as morning glory, a 32 ounce/acre rate of Roundup Original Max or Weather Max will likely provide better control in Roundup Ready Flex cotton. Ammonium sulfate is generally necessary when preparing glyphosate spray mixtures in West Texas due to "hard" water and "tough" weeds. The general recommendation for glyphosate spray mixtures is to add 17 lb of spray grade ammonium sulfate/100 gallons of spray mix.

Roundup Ready Cotton

Although we have seen a significant shift toward varieties with Roundup Ready Flex technology, we still have a considerable number of the older Roundup Ready technology varieties planted out there. Up to two 22 oz/acre of Roundup WeatherMax over-the-top (OT) applications can be made to Roundup Ready varieties. At least 10 days between applications and two additional mainstem nodes of growth are required. No single application may exceed 22 oz/acre. Once past the four-leaf stage, two post-directed or shielded sprayer applications can also be made at a maximum 22 oz/acre / application. Ten days and two additional mainstem nodes of growth are also required between these applications. Post-directed equipment should be adjusted to direct the spray to the bottom of the plants and spray contact onto leaves should be minimized. Use less than 30 psi spray pressure. Salvage treatments of Roundup WeatherMax may be applied OT after the 5th leaf reaches 1 inch in diameter at 22 oz/acre when weed competition may threaten to cause crop loss. These treatments can result significant boll loss, delayed maturity and/or yield loss. No more than one salvage

treatment should be made during the growing season. Follow up applications of up to 44 oz/acre can be made OT again once 20 percent boll crack has occurred to control late season or perennial weeds.

Watch for Roundup Ready Over-the-Top Window Closure

Some earlier planted Roundup Ready fields are nearing the end of the over the top window for glyphosate applications. Cotton that was planted around May 1 that has had no environmental damage is probably getting near the cutoff stage at this time. In some places, considerable thrips and wind/sand damage has “ragged up the plants” and resulted in severe stress, stacked nodes and has made staging the seedling plants more difficult. Where leaves have been lost or badly damaged, it is imperative that mainstem nodes be counted in order to properly stage the cotton. For more information, please consult the [Crop Production Guide Series article on Staging Roundup Ready Cotton](#).

If late applications are made, then significant yield losses can be encountered. Field research conducted at the Lubbock Center indicated that when Roundup was applied OT after the window closure, lint yields were decreased in 2 of 3 years from 5 to 19%. Plant condition, as affected by environmental factors, appeared to influence potential yield loss.

Roundup Ready Flex Cotton

Some of the management changes available with the Roundup Ready Flex varieties include delayed glyphosate over-the-top application. With the Roundup Ready Flex system, more or less, producers have the option of making glyphosate applications essentially full season, and at higher rates to target more difficult to control weeds. Since the 4th leaf stage window of the older Roundup Ready technology is now moot with the new Roundup Ready Flex technology,

many producers may opt to wait for larger crop/weed size to spray for the first time. Caution should be taken here to not allow the larger weed size to cause competition losses in the cotton. For more information: Monsanto has produced [a good graphic that outlines the glyphosate spraying options](#) for Roundup Ready Flex, and a team of Texas A&M personnel headed up by Dr. Peter Dotray put together an excellent publication answering the question "[How will Roundup Ready Flex cotton change my weed management decisions](#)".

Weed Resistance to Glyphosate Issues

There have been some recent reports concerning the possibility of glyphosate resistant Palmer amaranth in Louisiana. Dr. Sandy Stewart, Extension cotton specialist for LSU noted this in his [last newsletter](#). This threat appears to be an important issue facing parts of the U.S. Cotton Belt. Dr. Bob Nichols with Cotton Incorporated worked with a team of weed scientists from across the U.S. and assembled an [excellent publication concerning weed resistance in cotton](#). The best way to prevent this from occurring in the High Plains is to use multiple herbicides with varying modes of action. This would include NOT relying solely on glyphosate as your only weed control option.

Glyphosate/Staple Tank Mixes for Roundup Ready Varieties

The addition of Staple LX herbicide at 1.3-1.7 oz/acre to the first OT application of glyphosate may enhance control of several annual weed species and also provide some residual control. Improved control of some morning glory species and Palmer amaranth is stated. Rainfall or sprinkler irrigation (0.5 to 1") after application is required for residual control. For more information contact your DuPont representative. We have provided a [copy of the Staple LX label](#).

Dual Magnum/Glyphosate Tank Mixes for Roundup Ready Cotton

Dual Magnum has a label for Touchdown or Roundup/Dual Magnum tank mixes for use on Roundup Ready cotton. Dual Magnum should be tank mixed with the supported glyphosate material for residual control of pigweed, annual grasses and yellow nutsedge at 1 to 1.33 pt/acre. According to Syngenta personnel, for over-the-top tank mixes of Dual with glyphosate (Touchdown and Roundup) in Roundup Ready cotton, the cotton should be at least 3 inches tall, but not larger than 4 leaf stage (where the 5th leaf is quarter-sized). For Dual alone, a 100 day preharvest interval (PHI) for postemergence for over-the-top applications or 80 day PHI for post-directed applications is required. Dual plus glyphosate may be post directed any-time up to the PHI. Also, it is suggested that ammonium sulfate, spray adjuvants, surfactants, fertilizer additives, or other pesticides NOT be included in the spray mix as phytotoxicity/crop injury may occur with the Dual formulation. The label states that “postemergence OT applications of this tank mixture may cause temporary injury in the form of necrotic spotting to exposed cotton leaves which will not affect normal plant development. Do not apply Touchdown or Roundup postemergence OT to cotton past the growth stage limit specified on their respective labels. Do not use on sand or loamy sand soils in Gaines County, TX.” Potential for reduced weed control from supported glyphosate materials could exist in extremely hard water areas due to the exclusion of ammonium sulfate. Best results are obtained when the Dual is incorporated 24 hours after application using 0.5 to 1 inch of irrigation water. There is a premix formulation of glyphosate and metolachlor (Dual) available called Sequence. For specific questions concerning this application contact your Syngenta representative. [Dual Magnum](#) or [Dual II Magnum](#) labels are available here.

Issues Surrounding Other Syngenta Herbicide Products

Envoke and Suprend herbicides are currently not registered for use in West Texas due to potential for crop injury and negative residual carryover effects on rotational crops. Syngenta personnel and university researchers are currently evaluating these issues and investigating the possibility of obtaining a label for this region in the future.

Ignite 280 SL Herbicide on Liberty Link Cotton

In 2007, we have more cotton varieties with the transgenic glufosinate herbicide tolerant cotton system. These are the Liberty Link varieties from FiberMax (Bayer CropScience). As usual, we will need to learn how to most effectively use this new tool in the weed control arsenal. Ignite 280 SL herbicide (glufosinate-ammonium) is the formulation that was labeled for Liberty Link cotton in 2006. Liberty Link cotton varieties have excellent full-season tolerance (both crop size and rate) to the labeled herbicide, but applications must cease at 70 days prior to harvest to comply with the designated PHI. Early postemergence weed control options are [available here](#).

A reformulation of Ignite herbicide was made for the 2006 growing season. Glufosinate approved for use in Liberty Link cotton is now marketed as Ignite 280 SL (a higher concentration of active ingredient at 24.5% or 2.34 lb active ingredient/gallon). For 2007, Ignite 280 SL has an amended federal label which allows higher rates for each application, as well as higher total in-season application rates for the glufosinate active ingredient. If producers opt to use a 29 ounce/acre first application, then two additional sequential applications may be made at the 29 ounce/acre rate (for a total of 87 ounces/acre per season). However, the new Ignite 280 SL label will allow producers to apply up to 43 oz/acre in a single first application, up to a total of 72 oz/acre/season (or only ONE more sequential 29

ounce/acre application), with noted rotational restrictions. With all of the field work underway with planting, replanting, sand fighting, etc., some weeds are getting very large at this time. This might be a year to seriously consider using the 43 ounce/acre rate the first time to ensure a good kill of sizeable weeds. Always read and follow label directions. A copy of the new Ignite 280 SL federal label [is available](#).

This herbicide works well against many problem weeds including morningglory. Ignite 280 SL herbicide typical rate is 23 to 29 oz/acre. The label suggests that the 29 oz/acre rate be used when weeds exceed specific heights, and a higher single application rate of 43 oz/acre is now allowed under the new federal label. When a field has a mixture of weed species, use the highest rate required to control all targeted species.

There are two critical issues surrounding this herbicide system. One such issue is weed size. Typically, most weeds should be targeted at very small size (see label for 80 plus specific broadleaf species and about 30 grass species and size restrictions). An additional 25 plus species can be either controlled or suppressed with the 29 oz/acre rate or by two sequential applications (see label for specifics).

The other critical issue is thorough spray coverage. Since this is a contact material, it is critical that outstanding spray coverage be obtained. The label states that "Uniform, thorough spray coverage is important to achieve consistent weed control. Select nozzles and pressure that deliver MEDIUM spray droplets as indicated in the nozzle manufacturer's catalogs and in accordance with ASAE Standard S-572." Bayer personnel suggest using flat fan nozzles, or Turbo-TeeJet types (if 60 psi pressure is used). It is NOT recommended to use air induction, raindrop nozzles, or flood-jet tips. **A minimum total spray volume of 15 gallons/acre is required.** For dense weed/crop canopies, a spray volume of 20 to 40 gallons/acre is required for thorough coverage. Also, ground speeds should not exceed 10 mph.

Ammonium sulfate at 17 lb/100 gallons of spray mix is also recommended.

The label also states that "For cotton tolerant to Ignite 280 SL herbicide, Syngenta's Dual Magnum or DuPont's Staple herbicide may be tank-mixed with Ignite 280 SL herbicide and applied over-the-top post-emergence to enhance weed control and/or provide residual control."

Roundup or Ignite/Insecticide Tank Mixes

Some questions have been asked concerning the use of glyphosate or Ignite/insecticide tank mixes. Generally Orthene (acephate), dimethoate, and Bidrin have been the tank-mix partners mentioned for thrips control. No problems with cotton phytotoxicity or product efficacy have generally been noted. RB

Cotton Disease

Seedling Diseases Still Impacting Stand Establishment Across the Region

In a "normal" year, the cotton crop would be up-and-running by now; however, the wet conditions we have been experiencing over the past several weeks have negatively affected plant growth. In contrast, these same conditions have been quite favorable for the growth and development of seedling disease causing organisms, such as *Rhizoctonia solani*. This fungus is the primary culprit of most of the seedling disease reports we have seen to date. In addition, the warmer temperatures and gusty winds we experienced last week have led to an increase in post-emergence damping-off.



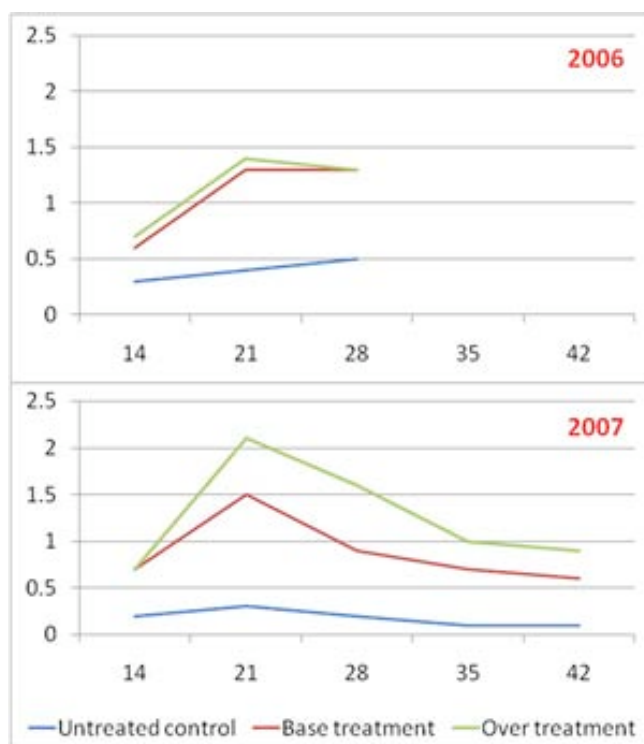
**Post-emergence damping-off caused by
*Rhizoctonia solani***

Most anyone would agree that “something is better than nothing” when it comes to treating seed with fungicides, and this year is no exception. As we typically see in our research trials, the standard seed treatments are providing significantly higher plant stands compared to the untreated or black seed.



**Effect of different fungicide treatments on
hypocotyl health**

The benefits of using an over treatment is also evident this season, resulting in significantly higher stands than the base treatments alone. The use of an over treatment may not be required every year; however, it is important to have efficacy data for the products currently available under extreme disease pressure to see how and when these products can be used in West Texas.



-- [click for a larger image](#) --

Performance of a base seed treatment and a base + overtreatment compared to untreated seed in 2006 and 2007. Note that final stands were obtained by 28 days after planting in 2006 under moderate disease pressure, but substantial losses are still being experienced in 2007 under heavy disease pressure.

If you have any questions regarding seedling disease issues contact Jason Woodward at (806) 746-6101. JW

Cotton Marketing

Hedging Cotton Counter-Cyclical Payments

Counter-cyclical payments make up one part of the safety net in the 2002 farm bill. Along with the fixed direct payments and the marketing loan price support program, the counter-cyclical payments make up the primary components of the commodity price support section of the 2002 farm bill. The counter-cyclical payment (CCP) for cot-

ton will decrease if market prices go above a certain level and will increase to a maximum of \$0.1373 per pound if market prices go below a certain level. The CCP is maximum when the national average market price is below \$0.52 and will be zero when the national average market price is \$0.6573 or above.

If you have not spent time learning about the CCP, it can require some time to be comfortable with the concept and the formulas that determine the CCP rate. It is recommended that you spend some time studying CCP before you attempt to hedge it. An excellent source of information can be found on [this page of the National Cotton Council website](#).

Because the CCP moves counter to the market, the cotton producer who has planted cotton on his cotton base has a natural hedge against a price increase that can reduce the CCP. When the market price increases, thereby decreasing the CCP, the producer with cotton on his base can participate in the higher market by selling his cotton. As the national average market price increases above the national loan rate of \$0.52 and CCP decreases, the producer will be receiving more for his cotton, which is what the CCP was designed to do. For the last two years, without any reasonable expectations of a large price increase above the loan rate to significantly reduce the CCP, most producers have not chosen to hedge the CCP with the natural hedge in place.

With the ethanol induced run-up in grain prices and the recent weather-driven difficulties in getting their cotton crop off to a good start, many producers may be planting some other crop and depending on the cotton CCP for a significant portion of their income. Producers with cotton payment base but without cotton production should give some thought to hedging their cotton CCP. Without production of your base crop, you do not have the automatic counter-cyclical protection from price increases. The commodity you are growing is not likely to respond to the same market conditions, so you could experience a flat or falling market in the crop produced while cot-

ton prices increased to a level to erode away part or all of your CCP.

The cotton market is in a volatile time period and it is possible that a significant increase in cotton prices could occur between now and the end of the 2007-08 marketing year (ending July 31, 2008), thereby reducing or even eliminating any CCP. The CCP for the 2007-08 marketing year will be calculated using the weighted national average market price beginning August 1, 2007 and ending July 31, 2008. Monthly marketings are used to determine the average weighted price for the marketing year. About 75% of the marketings usually occur by the end of February so the prices received during those peak months will primarily determine the CCP rate. Even though prices that occur during the peak marketing months of November through February have the greatest impact on the determination of the average price for the year, final calculation of the CCP rate cannot be made until after next July 31.

The CCP is a large part of most cotton farmers' income. If you are depending on a cotton CCP and are not planting that base to cotton, you should seriously consider hedging your CCP. Usually this is done with the purchase of call options that will experience an increase in value as the market increases. This requires that we examine several other concepts that will be discussed next week. [An excellent article to read before next week](#) can be found on Mississippi State's website.

The first step in any type of hedging program, if you do not have one, is to select a commodity broker. As with any service that is important to your bottom line, personal reference from a trusted associate is usually the best way to select a broker. The phone book and internet can also help you find information on local commodity brokers. We have provided a [link to in-depth discussion of points to consider when selecting a broker](#). JS and JY

Corn and Sorghum Entomology

No news is good news

I can't recall a time in the past 9 years that there were no insect problems to report. But there aren't, so I won't.

TAMU needs spider mite infested fields

This has been an exceptional year for corn, especially since the weather is cooperating. However, the wet weather has made it very difficult for us to find spider mites to use in our mite control trials. We are testing several new miticides this year, but we are now officially worried that we won't get enough mites for the trials. So, if you encounter any corn fields with building colonies of Banks grass mites, please call Pat Porter at (806) 746-6101. We would like to pull a few lower leaves from such fields and transport them to our research plots at Halfway and Etter. Thank you!

Grain Sorghum Agronomy

Is Seed for Grain Sorghum in Short Supply?

Despite reports from several individuals, it appears that there is a good supply of grain sorghum seed in the region to cover a high amount of primary crop sorghum acres as well grain sorghum replantings after failed cotton acres. As of June 8th, popular hybrids at some companies are sold out, but most grain sorghum hybrid seed companies still have an adequate supply of seed. If your local supplier initially reports unavailability, be sure to contact any of the regional grain sorghum hybrid seed companies.

Last Recommended Planting Dates for Grain Sorghum Hybrids

Lubbock Center at (806) 746-6101 or e-mail Calvin Trostle, ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu. CT

Information has been compiled by Extension on companies' last recommended planting dates for grain sorghum hybrids in the Texas South Plains for 2007. This information is available through your county Extension office as well as [viewing or downloading from the Lubbock Center website](#).

The [attached table](#) describes in general terms, the last recommended planting dates such that producers take minimal risk in reaching final maturity due to cool fall weather or an early killing frost. Full-season hybrids should be in the ground in the northwest South Plains to ensure proper maturity. Such hybrids in West Texas are exclusively for moderate to preferably high irrigation production. CT

Peanut Agronomy

New Peanut Production Guide Now Available

The new 2007 Texas Peanut Production Guide has been expanded and is [now available online](#) from Texas Cooperative Extension. It will eventually be available for purchase through <http://tcebookstore.org> or through your local county Extension office.

New Statewide Peanut Newsletter for Texas

Texas Cooperative Extension now produces a statewide peanut newsletter. It will be published periodically throughout the growing season, and is compiled by the State Peanut Extension Agronomist, Todd Baughman, in Vernon. Copies are available through <http://peanut.tamu.edu>. Back issues are available in the lower right hand corner of the web page at the link, "Peanut Progress Archives". If you would like to be added to the e-mail notification list for when a new edition comes out, call the

FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture

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