Issues in Agriculture

The Newsletter about Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements

- A pecan workshop will be held on May 4 at Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center from 9:00 AM to noon. Speakers: Mark Muegge, Jaime Iglesias, and Salvador Vitanza. The topics: PNC, forecast system, research trial, aphids, and crop nutrition. Free event. 3 CEUs.
- This field season, Drs. Mark Muegge, Allen Knutson, Jaime Iglesias and I would like to conduct a study with the objective of comparing the efficacy and cost of managing pecan nut casebearer (PNC) using either the Texas AgriLife IPM program, which targets hatching larvae or the adulticide program that targets PNC moths in growers' orchards. At this point we have a few Cooperators willing to help us conduct this trial, but if you would like to include part of your pecan orchard in this study, please get in touch with me as soon as possible to discuss it.

PECAN:

As you know, first generation **pecan nut casebearer** (PNC) population levels last year were very low and most growers chose not to apply insecticides against this pest. We do not know yet how this pest is going to behave this year, but the time to set your pheromone traps is approaching fast. It is ideal to set the traps at least a week before moth emergence, to insure that we can detect the first moth flight. Personal preference varies, but I would recommend setting the traps on, or immediately after, April 15 just to be on the safe side. You should take advantage of the PNC forecast system to use your local weather data and predict the optimal dates to start monitoring for eggs on nutlets and detect the first significant nut entry. You can find detailed instructions at this web address: http://pncforecast.tamu.edu/ Please let me know if you need assistance using this system and I will be glad to help you.

Last year, the aphid species complex reached or surpassed threshold levels in most orchards and insecticide applications were needed. Be aware that resistance to soil-applied imidacloprid has been reported in our area. Foliar applications of imdidacloprid are still effective, but consider rotating it with other pesticide classes to reduce the likelihood of developing resistance.

COTTON:

Most of the cotton fields are being prepared for planting. The majority of land is being disked and irrigated at this time. Remember that planting into cold soils increases the chances of low germination rate, chilling injury to seedlings, and plant disease incidence. To choose the ideal planting date, it is widely recommended to monitor soil temperatures at 8:00 AM, every day, at a

depth of at least 4 inches (a few recommend 6 inches) and plant after recording 60 F for at least three days and with a dry and warm weather forecast for the following 5 days.

2010 COTTON VARIETY TRIALS:
I wanted to mail you this information in early February at the latest so you could use it to decide which varieties to plant this season. However, it was not until yesterday that I received the fiber analysis in a readable format. I did not want to present only yield data because I know that you care not just about pounds of lint or seed but also about fiber quality.

PIMA:
Cooperator: Mr. Ramon Tirres. Farm near Clint, TX
Planting date: 4/21/2009. Harvest date: 10/28/2009.

VARIETY	Yield/ Plot (lbs)	Yield/acre (lbs)	Gin turnout %	lint/acre (lbs)	Micronaire	Length	Strength
DP357	578	2206	39.4	869	3.73	1.37	40.05
DP340	536	2047	39.3	804	3.62	1.38	39.75
PHY830	526	2009	40.6	816	3.89	1.42	41.68
PHY800	476	1819	40.0	727	3.84	1.41	39.73

There were no statistical significant differences at a 95% confidence.
Take the gin turnout with a grain of salt because it has varied widely from one year to another. We suspect it is due to having used different machines for the analysis. It would be better for you to rely on the gin turnout percentage reported by your cotton gin.

UPLAND:
Cooperator: Mr. Harvey Hilley Jr. Farm near Acala, TX
Planting date: 5/5/2009. Harvested: 11/20/2009.
I will provide the statistical analysis for this trial later, at the moment we are having technical difficulties with the equipment.

VARIETY	Yield/plot (lbs)	Gin turnout %	Lint/plot (lbs)	Micronaire	Length	Strength
ST 4288 B2RF	858	42.5	365	5.27	1.15	26.87
DP164 B2RF	813	41.3	336	4.38	1.19	29.23
DP 0935 B2RF	783	43.7	342	4.62	1.18	28.77
PhytoGen375WR	777	44.6	347	4.99	1.13	27.97
FM 1880 B2F	766	42.5	326	4.44	1.18	29.97
PhytoGen485WRF	752	42.8	322	5.07	1.14	28.67
DP 0949 B2RF	727	45.1	328	5.00	1.15	29.30
FM 9160 B2F	726	43.4	315	4.66	1.18	29.60
PhytoGen755RF	712	40.6	272	4.59	1.26	33.83
FM 1740 B2F	658	44.9	295	5.05	1.14	28.67
PhytoGen745 RF	652	43.2	282	4.82	1.16	31.23
FM 9180 B2F	617	42.2	260	4.87	1.21	31.10