Issues in Agriculture

The Newsletter about Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements

- On May 21, I will discuss **urban pest management** problems and solutions at the Chester Jordan Elementary School, El Paso, TX 79938 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM. You are welcome to attend to find out about how to deal with commonly found household pest problems such as ants, honeybees/yellowjackets (in or near houses and buildings), fleas, crickets, houseflies, fungus gnats, springtails, leafcutter bees, roaches, and other pesky creatures.

- The AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton will be hosting its first field day dedicated to **nursery and greenhouse production** on June 24th. The details are still being worked out, but the program will start in the afternoon and wrap up with a free dinner. The field day will have something for everyone. The program will start in auditorium with an overview of the research and extension programs at the Center. The program will then move outdoors with field tours of Dr. Pemberton's plant evaluation trials and Dr. Steddom's and Dr. Ludwig's pest management trials. The Northeast Texas Nursery Growers Association (NTNGA) Memorial Greenhouse will be a major feature of the program.

- **Pest Alert:** The pink hibiscus mealybug is an exotic pest that has been reported in Florida (2002), Louisiana (2006), and Texas (2007). Locations have been confirmed in Nueces County and Hidalgo County in Texas. This is a potentially serious pest of many ornamental and agricultural crops. It feeds by sucking plant sap on more than 300 species in 74 plant families. Hosts of pink hibiscus mealybug include: grape, all citrus species, hibiscus, lantana, ixora, tomato, pumpkin, okra, lettuce, beans, soybeans, cucumber, peppers, cabbage, squash, and cotton. It is not in the El Paso area, but we need to keep an eye open especially when importing ornamentals or other host plants. If you suspect an infestation, please report it to your local AgriLife or TDA Representative. For more information and images visit: http://www.ncipmc.org/phmb/phmb.pdf or http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort/pubs/pubs/PHM-Texasver4.pdf

PECAN:

It seems that this year we are going to have a bumper crop… of pecan nut casebearers! Everybody is catching large numbers of moths in the traps and pecan growers are alarmed. Today (Friday) and for the rest of the weekend, many orchards in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties will receive insecticide applications against PNC moths. It is important to remind ourselves that the

number of moths captured in the traps do not have a strong correlation with actual levels of larvae on the nutlets. High PNC population levels in an “off year” can make most pecan growers very nervous, but insecticides should be just as effective protecting the nutlets from larva damage regardless of pest abundance. Texas AgriLife recommends to aim one insecticide application against PNC larvae 2-3 days before first significant nut entry. Trying to kill moths may result in more insecticide applications than would otherwise be needed if you intend to kill larvae; and consequently, greater pesticide/application costs. Whatever you decide to do in your farm, I urge you to test the alternative in a reduced area. For instance, if you apply insecticides for moth control in most of your orchard, let a small area to control larvae, and vice versa. Making a pest control decision may give you a “good feeling”, but the only way to validate your decision is by evaluating and comparing its results to the alternative. Lorsban, Mustang Max, and Intrepid are popular insecticides against PNC moths and larvae in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, but remember that overuse of a single insecticide or chemical group often leads to pesticide resistance.

CDMS (http://www.cdms.net/) is a great source of information on insecticide options and product labels. If you do not have access to internet but need an agro-chemical label, let me know and I will forward it to you right away. The following is the most up-to-date CDMS insecticide list labeled for PNC control in Texas:

ADJOURN, MANA - Makhteshim Agan of North America, Inc., Esfenvalerate,
ALTACOR, DuPont Crop Protection, Chlorantraniliprole
AMMO 2.5EC, HELENA, Helena Chemical Company, Cypermethrin
ASANA XL INSECTICIDE, DuPont Crop Protection, Esfenvalerate
ASSAIL 30 SG INSECTICIDE, United Phosphorus, Inc., Acetamiprid
ASSAIL 30SG, Cerexagri-Nisso LLC, Acetamiprid
ASSAIL 70WP-INSECTICIDE, United Phosphorus, Inc., Acetamiprid
BATTALION 0.2 EC, Arysta LifeScience North America LLC, Deltamethrin
BAYTHROID XL, Bayer CropScience, Beta-cyfluthrin
BELAY INSECTICIDE, Valent U.S.A. Corporation Agricultural Products, Clothianidin
BELT SC, Bayer CropScience, Flubendiamide
BRIGADE WSB INSECTICIDE, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Bifenthrin
CARBARYL 4L (DREXEL), Drexel Chemical Company, Carbaryl
CARBARYL 4L INSECTICIDE, Loveland Products, Inc., Carbaryl
CHLORPYRIFOS 4E AG, MANA - Makhteshim Agan of North America, Inc., Chlorpyrifos
COBALT, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Chlorpyrifos; Gamma-cyhalothrin,
CRYMAX BIOINSECTICIDE, Certis USA, L.L.C., Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki strain EG7841
CYPERMETHRIN, TENKOZ, Inc., Cypermethrin
DANITOL 2.4 EC SPRAY, Valent U.S.A. Corporation Agricultural Products, Fenpropathrin
DELEGATE WG, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Spinetoram
DELIVER, Certis USA, L.L.C., Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki
DELTA GOLD, Winfield Solutions LLC (Agriliance LLC), Deltamethrin
DIMILIN 2L, Chemtura USA Corporation, Diflubenzuron
DIPEL ES INSECTICIDE, Valent BioSciences Corporation, Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki
ENTRUST, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Spinosad
FANFARE 2EC, MANA - Makhteshim Agan of North America, Inc., Bifenthrin
FYFANON, HELENA, Helena Chemical Company, Malathion
GOVERN 4E, TENKOZ, Inc., Chlorpyrifos
HATCHET, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Chlorpyrifos
HERO EW, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Bifenthrin; Zeta-cypermethrin
HERO INSECTICIDE, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Bifenthrin; Zeta-cypermethrin
HOLSTER, Loveland Products, Inc., Cypermethrin
IMIDAN 70-W INSECTICIDE, Gowan Company, Phosmet
INTREPID 2 F, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Methoxyfenozide
JAVELIN-WG, Certis USA, L.L.C., Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki
LEVERAGE 2.7 INSECTICIDE, Bayer CropScience, Cyfluthrin; Imidacloprid,

LORSBAN 75 WG, Gowan Company, Chlorpyrifos
LORSBAN ADVANCED, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Chlorpyrifos
LORSBAN-4E, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Chlorpyrifos
MALATHION 5, Winfield Solutions LLC (Agriliance LLC), Malathion
MALATHION 57 EC, Loveland Products, Inc., Malathion
MALATHION 8 FLOWABLE, GOWAN, Gowan Company, Malathion
MUSTANG INSECTICIDE, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Zeta-cypermethrin
MUSTANG MAX, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Zeta-cypermethrin
MUSTANG MAX EC, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Zeta-cypermethrin
MUSTANG MAX EW, FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group, Zeta-cypermethrin
NEEMIX 4.5, Certis USA, L.L.C., Azadirachtin
NUFOS 4E (RUP), Cheminova, Inc., Chlorpyrifos
PENNCAP-M, Cerexagri-Nisso LLC, Methyl parathion
PROKOZ SEVIN SL, PROKoZ, Inc., Carbaryl
RENOUNCE 20WP, Bayer CropScience, Cyfluthrin
RESPECT, BASF Ag Products, Zeta-cypermethrin
RESPECT EC, BASF Ag Products, Zeta-cypermethrin
S-FENVALOSTAR, LG Life Sciences, Esfenvalerate
SEVIN 4F, Bayer CropScience, Carbaryl
SEVIN 80-WSP, Bayer Environmental Science, Carbaryl
SEVIN 80S, Bayer CropScience, Carbaryl
SEVIN SL CARBARYL INSECTICIDE, Bayer Environmental Science, Carbaryl
SEVIN XLR PLUS, Bayer CropScience, Carbaryl
SPINTOR 2SC, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Spinosad
THIONEX 50 WSB, MANA - Makhteshim Agan of North America, Inc., Endosulfan
TOMBSTONE, Loveland Products, Inc., Cyfluthrin,
TOMBSTONE HELIOS, Loveland Products, Inc., Cyfluthrin
UP-CYDE 2.5 EC, United Phosphorus, Inc., Cypermethrin
WARHAWK INSECTICIDE, Loveland Products, Inc., Chlorpyrifos
WHIRLWIND, Helena Chemical Company, Chlorpyrifos
YUMA 4E, Winfield Solutions LLC (Agriliance LLC), Chlorpyrifos

COTTON:

We need to scout for thrips because the weather has not been particularly warm. Usually, thrips do not cause significant plant injury in our region. The fields that I have checked had very few thrips if any. The current threshold for thrips is 1 per true leaf, but according to preliminary research conducted by AgrilLife Extension personnel: David Kerns , Megha Parajulee , Ed Bynum , Monti Vandiver , Manda Cattaneo , Kerry Siders , and Dustin Patman this threshold is probably too high. They suggest that under warm conditions, (high 50s to low 90s^{o}F) the current action threshold appears to be too high and it should be closer to 0.5 thrips per plant. Texas AgriLife Researchers: Mark D. Arnold , Jane Dever, Heather D. Elkins , and Monica A. Sheehan are developing a thrips resistant cotton cultivar using wild and obsolete cotton race stock germplasm from the USDA, French and Russian collections. Through mass screening, they have identified resistant accessions, which have been crossed to breeding program elites. A field trial testing F2s is in progress.

Cotton plant stand densities average 54,000 plants per acre in our area. This is probably too high and substantial monetary savings could be achieved by using lower seeding rates. Small plot research testing four plant stand densities will be conducted this year at Mr. Ramon Tirres' Farm near Clint. This year's results should be considered preliminary. In 2011, this work will be replicated in large plots for greater confidence in the results.