

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

Overview:

Rains over the previous weekend did far more good than harm where they fell. But parts of the Midsouth, especially Mississippi, received excessive amounts, up to 7". South Louisiana remains very dry. The upper Missouri Bootheel also needs rain.

The crop continues to progress where moisture is present. Pix treatments will be starting on a wide basis this week.

We are starting our DD-60 table this season with totals from Mississippi and Tennessee.

Insect Reports:

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.: "We continue to see problems with aphids. The rain has helped considerably, but they're building again and treatments are being made. As of Thursday, the Section 18 had been triggered for Furadan in northeast Louisiana, and I know of two documented control failures in central Louisiana. A lot of people are opting for Furadan because it's been too wet in places to get across the field with a banded Provado treatment. We have a scattering of what we believe to be budworm eggs across the state. A few fields have

been treated. Mostly, people are waiting to see how many worms actually develop, and only 25% of the crop is non-Bt. Where plant bugs are remaining after Malathion treatments, we're reminding everyone that the material only offers 50% to 60% control, so it will take multiple applications. Plus, with this dry weather we think wild hosts are drying down and reinfesting fields."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Coordinator: "Generally, things are pretty quiet. Folks are beginning to make pinhead square treatments. In the southeastern part of the state, eradication sprays have started. We seem to have a little more boll weevil pressure in northeastern Arkansas. Plant bugs and aphids are out there but aren't building on anything to speak of. We are hearing about grasshoppers building on the edges of soybean fields in scattered locations across the state."

Bob Griffin, Ind. Consultant, Griffin Ag Consulting, Jonesboro, Ark.: "We're still treating a few thrips. About three weeks ago, we started finding western flower thrips and dealt with them with Monitor. We're making pinhead applications and have made two applications on quite a bit of acreage and are just now starting the first round on some cotton. We've got plenty of

weevils in the traps. I treated my first field this season for aphids Wednesday. I had weevils, plant bugs and aphids and went with Leverage."

Robert Wells, Cotton Consultant, Agriliance, Dermott, Ark.: "We're still finding some thrips in 3- and 4-leaf stage cotton, but they've let up considerably compared to a couple of weeks ago. Eradication sprays started late last week, but there still are a lot of acres to go. The 10 mph wind restriction is really playing havoc with the schedule. Planes in many cases have only worked 2 hours in the morning and maybe an hour and a half in the evening. Charles Denver found egg counts running 7,000 to 9,000 per acre on Bayou Bartholomeu west of Dermott. Based on moth traps, they're probably budworms. We're also finding a few eggs here and there. We're waiting to see what hatches out before we make treatment decisions. We're seeing a few aphids building on a spotty basis, but I did hit an area with what I consider a medium infestation. With Malathion going out, aphids are on our minds. Some areas are being hit with plant bugs, but we're hoping the Malathion helps. We've got everything from 12-node cotton all the way down to plants just coming out of the

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ground.”

Mike Ellis, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.: “We had fairly severe sand blast damage from 60 to 80 mph winds last weekend. Cotton is beginning to recover, but some had to be replanted. No plant bugs are showing up. We’re still treating thrips in some places. You can still see where the nozzles stopped up on the Temik cotton. We’re just getting started on pinhead treatments, and a lot of herbicides are going out.”

Gerald Daniel, Ind. Consultant, Clinton, Miss.: “Plant bugs are beginning to move into some of our cotton and aphids are building. I’ve been applying Bidrin at 1:20 trying to pick up the aphids where they’re at treatable levels. In northeast Louisiana where most of my cotton is, I’m picking up a few weevil punctures, and we’re finding a few in traps. It’s hard to believe we’re getting good control with eradication treatments as windy as it’s been. I’m trying to get my growers to put out a shot of Orthene after pinhead treatments, but they’re hoping the Malathion gives enough control. I’m basing the recommendation on the fact that we’re knocking out beneficials and need to hold things in place for two weeks with the followup treatment. I’m finding some plant bug damage and nymphs after Malathion treatments. We haven’t had to spray for worms yet. But because we can’t count on beneficials this year I’m going to consider lower thresholds so we don’t end up with terminal damage on pinhead cotton.”

Mike Edwards, Ind. Consultant, Water Valley, Miss.: “We’re starting to spray a few fields for plant bugs, primarily with Orthene at a third of a pound. We’re finding hardly any eggs, and aphids are practically nil. A little Pix and boron are going out where we’re spraying plant bugs. But I imagine that next week we will be putting out Pix by itself.”

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: “We’re finding some bollworm eggs but are having trouble finding worms behind them and haven’t

sprayed any cotton yet for worms. I imagine we’re through with thrips now. Plant bug numbers have been fairly low, and we haven’t had to spray yet. Eradication sprays have been going out on a somewhat erratic basis. Usually we have some aphids by now, but there are none to speak of yet. Last week’s rain was magic, except where people got 6”. We’ll be blooming before the 1st. I’ve put out one Pix treatment, and we’re just before that starting on a wide basis.”

Jack McDaniel, Technical Services Director, Agro Distributors. (La. and S. Ark.), Oak Ridge, La.: “Insect pressure is pretty light. The \$64,000 question right now is how the eradication sprays in north Louisiana will flare insects and whether it will give any plant bug control. Most growers are in a wait-and-see frame of mind. In a week to 10 days, we’ll know.”

Warren Cork, Extension Agronomy/Information Specialist, Benton, Mo.: “They’re still spraying for thrips in the southern Bootheel, but in the northern part thrips aren’t much of a problem. The northern crop looks pretty decent but it’s very dry. The southern crop has had a tough way to go with hail, wind, sand and rain. One farmer told me he had the best start ever and five days later it was the worst.”

Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.: “Plant bugs are at a high population in some areas.

Malathion treatments are only 50% to 80% effective, and several fields are being treated for plant bugs after eradication treatments because there still are high numbers in them. Weevil pressure is increasing but is at a lower level in zone 1 than zone 2. With worms, egg counts are running zero to 6% with live worms in the terminals ranging from zero to 4%. They appear more prevalent in older cotton. The threshold for small terminals is 4 per 100 terminals checked. We’re advising everyone to keep checking terminals in Bollgard and non-Bollgard cotton. We’re reminding people that Staple and Malathion can’t be tankmixed and that Staple can’t be applied within 24 hours before or after a Malathion spray, so check with eradication personnel for Malathion timing before applying Staple.”

Marion Farris, Area Agent/Pest Management, Coushatta, La.: “Insect activity is on the increase. I found scattered worm eggs and budworm moths in the fields. No control measures are recommended at this time. The eggs were very scattered and control measures shouldn’t be needed, even in conventional cotton. Plant bugs and flea hoppers have appeared in some fruiting cotton, and aphids are appearing in several fields. I’ve found them in isolated areas and weedy spots where they probably will build up and spread. Remember restrictions if using Furadan.”

Mississippi Degree Day accumulations to 06/08/00

Location	PD* 5-7-00
Tunica	448
Lyon	499
Vance	493
Stoneville	543
S’ville Norms	460
Sidon	548
Onward	526

*Planting Date

Sources: Mississippi Delta Research and Extension Center Weather/GIS Center; Russ Patrick, Tenn. Cooperative Extension Service

Tennessee Degree Day accumulations to 06/08/00

Location	PD* 5-1-00
Jackson	509.5