

MiteFax: San Joaquin Valley Cotton

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

June 13, 2003

Here is this week's issue of *MiteFax*, sponsored by the California Cotton Teams of Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of Zephyr®, Centric® and other products designed for SJV cotton production.

OVERVIEW

More lygus treatments are being made, especially in the southern half of the valley, and miticides are going out ahead of 1st irrigation. An unusual necrosis has turned up in some Pima fields (see Goodell). It appears related to sucking insects.

The following reports were made Thursday and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

Justin Cordoza, PCA, Agri-Tech, Merced: "We're not doing anything pest-wise right now. Herbicide applications are pretty much wrapping up. People are sidedressing and getting water started on a lot of cotton. Plants are just putting on their first fruiting positions. I'm watching a few fields with questionable mite populations,

but there are no fires to put out.

"We're watching lygus closely. So far, no counts have been above 3."

David Simoni, PCA, Western Farm Service, Hanford: "We're getting miticides on some fields before 1st irrigation and sidedressing Temik, too. Cotton is behind, but it seems to be trying to catch up. It's cooler this week, but we saw a good response to warmer temperatures last week.

"Worms have quieted down, but I'm finding some beet armyworm egg masses now. We've made a few lygus sprays, mainly with miticides. I've only treated 4 fields for lygus. There were pretty high counts in places after alfalfa was cut. A little Pix is going out, too. We're seeing a few more aphids, which may be something we'll have to address in the near future."

Steve Wright, Extension Farm Advisor, Tulare County: "A lot of irrigation is going on, and people are putting out their 1st preventive miticide applications. Some Temik is being sidedressed. A few lygus applications have been made. Growers are tending to treat somewhat lower levels to protect early positions this year.

"In general, though, we haven't had big outbreaks. Lygus are mainly coming out of weeds in orchards and riverbeds. Armyworms are a problem in some fields. Cotton looks pretty good, considering the late start, and some squaring is underway."

Pete Goodell, Extension IPM Entomologist, Kearney Ag Center, Parlier: "We're getting reports about a problem with some plants in Fresno County. They're exhibiting a browning necrosis and terminal damage on the tops. Charlie Summers (UC-Davis entomologist) believes this is a case of phytotoxemia, a plant disease introduced by the saliva of some kind of sucking insect. It's not certain if this is due to lygus or something else.

"So far, it's only been found in 2 Pima varieties. We can't say if these 2 varieties happen to be susceptible or if they were the only ones hit by whatever causes it."

Tim Smith, PCA, Buttonwillow Warehouse, Buttonwillow: "Most of what we're doing right now has to do with lygus. Counts are running anywhere from 1 up to 6-7. Some treat-

Continued on next page



©2003 Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Greensboro, N.C. 27419-8300. Centric® is a Restricted Use pesticide. Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using these products. Centric® is a trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. <http://www.syngentacropprotection.com/>



Centric®: Stronger Formulation, New Low Rate!

CENTRIC 40WG, our new formulation, provides the same trusted control as CENTRIC 25WG but at a new 2-oz/acre rate. In early season cotton, it works fast on a broad range of pests, including aphids, cotton fleahoppers and whiteflies. CENTRIC's trans-stemic activity moves throughout the plant to maintain a reservoir of active ingredient within the leaf.

And it does all that with minimal impact on beneficials.

Don't let insect pests slow down your crop's progress this season. For long-lasting protection, rely on CENTRIC.

(Sponsored Message)

ments are being made earlier than we typically would, but there's concern about the crop being late and the need to protect early positions to maintain yield. We're watching the lygus-to-square ratio pretty closely.

"We're treating in pockets in the south valley and west of Wasco and east of Buttonwillow. We're going with Capture. Lygus are building in alfalfa, but they'll start moving once alfalfa is cut, and cotton will have been irrigated by then and be very attractive. A lot of lygus also are in safflower, and that's being treated. I'm hoping we can avoid a second treatment, but things may not work out that way.

"An awful lot of beneficials are out there, maybe more than usual for this time of the year. They might be holding back a lot of other things. We are spraying worms in the south valley, east of Buttonwillow and at Shafter and north of there."

Sara Savary, PCA Crop Care Associates, Fresno: "Our cotton really isn't big enough to sweep yet. Here we are in mid June and I haven't taken the net out of the back of the truck yet. I've seen some squares starting up.

"First irrigation is going on everything. We put some miticides on ahead of it. Except for weeds, that's about all we're treating right now. Some cotton looks like it's been chewed on, but I'm not finding any worms."

Tony Touma, PCA, Bio Ag Consulting, Bakersfield: "Lygus counts range from 3-10. They're somewhat spread out, but we can find them in every field. In some fields with relatively low counts, the damage is maybe more widespread because they're apparently moving around a lot and hitting more positions. But relative to the numbers we're seeing, the overall damage in some fields isn't as bad as we might have expected.

"The difference between this year and last year is striking. Last year at this time our lygus counts in many

fields were zero. One farmer has more lygus in 150 acres of cotton right now than he did in 2,000 acres last July 22.

"Unfortunately, we're going with pyrethroids, knowing that will complicate things later. But we're trying to save early positions. There are some fields almost at 8 nodes that have lost the first week of squaring. In other cases the retention didn't drop at first, but we're losing squares now.

"Armyworms are hatching in hay, and I'm seeing very light numbers in cotton. They're just starting a cycle. I'm finding an occasional looper, too.

"Cotton looks pretty decent, otherwise. Zephyr gave us excellent mite control. We just need to stop lygus without spraying five times."

Rick Sandberg, PCA, Agri-Consultants, Cantua Creek: "We've been making Zephyr applications and have started irrigating. Our oldest cotton is 8-9 nodes, and we're just seeing squares. I swept some the other day, but nothing was there.

"We're 10-14 days behind, maybe longer. Usually, we find blooms on our first fields on June 15-20, but this year

it could be July 1 or after that. Hopefully, we'll have a warm fall.

"There's some discussion about using Temik to add extra protection. We don't want 2-4 counts nickel and diming us."

KNOW YOUR LYGUS

Lygus identification workshops are set for Kearney Ag Center (June 26) and Shafter REC (June 27). Both start at 10 a.m. ID guides will be available at the sessions. You also can download the guides now as PDF files.

Please note: the files contain numerous illustrations and take 6-8 minutes to extract on a dialup connection.

The full 12-page ID guide: agfax.com/updates/ca/lygus8104.pdf.

A 4-page quick field guide: agfax.com/updates/ca/lygus8105.pdf.

To request printed copies, email Pete Goodell, IPM Entomologist, at: ipmpbg@uskac.edu.

The guides were developed by Goodell and Shannon Mueller, agronomy farm advisor in Fresno County, and Charlie Summers, UC entomologist based at Kearney.

DD60 Table: 2003 Compared To 1998

As of: 6/13/2003	3/15	4/1	4/15	5/1
Shafter	693	622	572	524
Kettleman	763	687	636	588
Five Points	590	534	495	459
Los Banos	515	465	433	401
As of: 6/13/1998	3/15	4/1	4/15	5/1
Shafter	454	389	375	253
Kettleman	439	377	365	246
Five Points	412	356	344	229
Los Banos	339	299	293	198
Difference*	3/15	4/1	4/15	5/1
Shafter	239	233	197	270
Kettleman	324	310	271	341
Five Points	178	178	150	230
Los Banos	176	166	140	203

* Positive number indicates 2003 is greater than 1998