

MiteFax

SJV Cotton

Where your crop comes first.

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Here is this week's **MiteFax**, sponsored by the **California Cotton Team of Syngenta Crop Protection**.

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As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Best regards,

Owen Taylor, Editor

OVERVIEW

The crop remains relatively quiet. Miticides are going out, either before or after first irrigation. No brush fires are turning up. Limited lygus treatments were reported.

The crop is growing reasonably well, according to our contacts this week.

We're including brief comments regarding lygus from Pete Goodell, Extension IPM Advisor. He expects to have a more detailed lygus report next week.

Irrigation is starting farther up the valley.

CROP REPORTS

Pete Goodell, Extension IPM Entomologist, Kearney Ag Center, Parlier: "Lygus never had a chance to develop an outside-the-valley source this year due to lack of rainfall and frost and chill. There was no grass on the West Side or foot hills where they could develop a population that would influence things in the early season. There hasn't even been enough of anything in those areas to sweep.

"What we are looking at is potential for lygus to come later from neighboring crops or even fields some distance away. There's more safflower than we've had in several years, and that could well be a localized problem in some areas. As much as it's possible, we will sample safflower. And I can't overemphasize the need to manage alfalfa to hold as much of the population as possible in the hay rather than letting it loose on the countryside."

Steve Wright, Extension Farm Advisor, Tulare County: "A lot irrigation started last week and this week, and more is scheduled for next week. Insects are pretty quiet. I'm hearing no complaints. A lot of wheat silage is being harvested, and the wheat crop looks pretty good. We skated by without any of the stripe rust that had been expected."

Steve Lenander, Technicare, Bakersfield: "Cotton looks good. Some is pushing 13 to 14 nodes. We had our first lygus treatments this week. Three fields at Arvin were running about a 6 count on 10- to 11-node

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cotton. They came in pretty quickly from adjacent crops that were being harvested.

“The pressure bomb readings have come up quite fast in some areas. Our water supply is limited in many locations, which means we’ve got to rely more on wells that don’t have as much capacity. So, this is pressing us to start irrigation earlier in some cases than we normally would.

“Almonds really are loaded. Tomatoes look good, as well.”

Chris Morgner, PCA, Agri-Valley Consulting, Merced: “We’re starting irrigation. Cotton is at 2 to 3 fruiting nodes, with some of it at a total of 8 to 11 nodes. It’s looking pretty good. There are no real obvious problems. Retention is good, and it’s hard to find lygus. We really haven’t seen any mites or aphids to speak of. There were some counts, but nothing to warrant spraying, so we decided to irrigate everything before we treat. We can let plants get a little bigger and maybe get by with one mite spray. I’ve swept the alfalfa, and there’s nothing much in it, either.

“I was walking out of an orchard at Los Banos this week, and a grower who has tomatoes and cotton pulled up. He stretched his arms out and asked, ‘Where are all the bugs?’ His PCA wasn’t finding any, either, in tomatoes or cotton. That’s the case for us, too, across the board. Our biggest battle right now is controlling fleabane and marehail in the trees.”

Rick Sandberg, PCA, Agri-Consultants, Cantua Creek: “Our biggest cotton is at 10 to 11 nodes, so

we’re doing okay. It’s finally starting to move a little. We started irrigation last Friday on our first fields and are finishing those now and have started on others. We had cotton planted in 3 periods, and stands look pretty good in the early and late plantings but maybe not so great with the middle planting. We’re starting to find a little mite and are spraying a few fields. I haven’t found any lygus – none.

“So far, the weather has been perfect for setting tomatoes. I’m in a tomato field right now (Friday) and just found my first tomato fruit worm for the year. Tomatoes have been fairly clean, so far.”

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