Panhandle Pest Update





Dr. Ed Bynum, Extension Entomologist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service,
6500 Amarillo Blvd., West, Amarillo, TX 79106
Ebynum@ag.tamu.edu, 806.677.5600 ext. 612



July

Spider mites and upcoming Weather Forecasts

The last few days there has been some heavy rains scattered all across the Texas High Plains. And, our meteorologists are predicting more rain and much cooler temperatures this week. If these conditions do occur, there is a good probability of a natural fungal pathogen, Neozygites spp., infecting spider mites in all crops, but especially corn. We typically begin to see the inoculation of spider mites with fungal spores when we have an extended period of high humidities (80% plus) and temperatures around or below 85° F for 8 10 hours a day. Heavy dews in the morning are often associated with these conditions.



Healthy spider mite in lower left corner and infected dead carcass in upper right corner, Photo: Karin Westrum

to

Gary Dick and Lawrent Bushman, previous KSU entomologists, at Garden City, Kansas surveyed corn fields in Kansas and a grain sorghum field near Lubbock, Texas in the early 1990's. Their study showed the Banks grass mite collected were infected with *Neozygites adjarica*. A later study reported this fungal pathogen also infested twospotted spider mites.

All life stages of the spider mites are infected and mite mortality can occur in 1 to 3 days after infection. Field infestations can be cleaned up within a week's time.

If you were planning to spray and the spray plane has not gotten to the field, re-scout your fields to see if mite infestations have been controlled by this fungal pathogen.

Update on Moth Trapping

The last of July and two to three weeks in August is typically when southwestern corn borer (SWCB) moths are most active. However, this year we are starting out with very low numbers of SWCB moths in county with moth traps, except moth number in Deaf Smith (trapping locations) and Parmer Counties (John David Gonzales, IPM Extension Agent, light traps) are beginning to increase (See SWCB moth graphs). In Deaf Smith county the high numbers of SWCB moths were in one or two trap locations in the county. Mr. Gonzales



https://twitter.com/TXPIPM



http://txppipm.blogspot.com

Educational programs by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, see disability or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

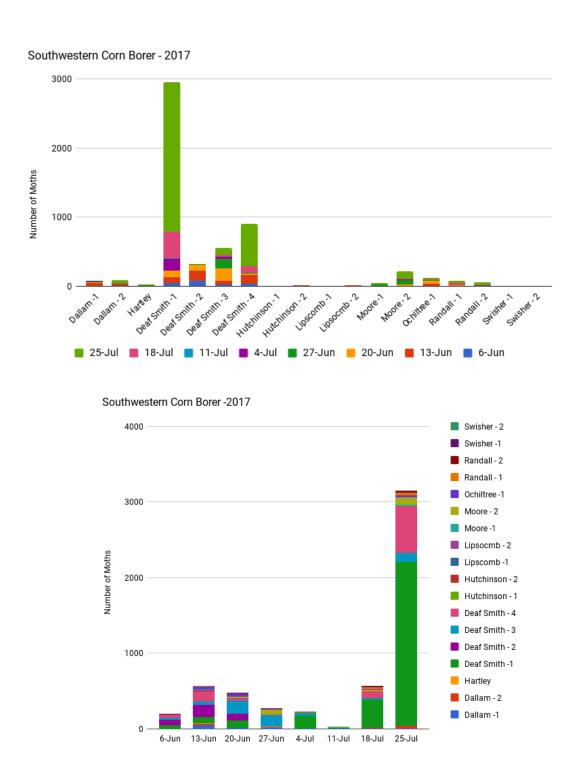


Panhandle Pest Update

has a similar observation that one location in Parmer County has more activity of SWCB moths than other areas in the county. We still have a few more weeks where SWCB moth activity may be a concern.

Overall, western bean cutworm (WBC) moth activity has not been very high this year, but we have had consistent moth activity in Dallam, Hartley, and Moore counties. WBC trap catches declined this week in Dallam and Hartley, but numbers were fairly high in Moore county (See WBC graph).

Also, fall armyworm (FAW) moth activity continues to be low across the counties being monitored. The was two counties that had an increase in FAWs. These counties were Lipscomb and Randall (see FAW graphs).



Panhandle Pest Update

