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# UPPER COAST CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Matagorda

Wharton

Jackson

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**Heat Units:** Each county location's temperature data are derived from a field near the county center. At 350-degree days (DD60), or heat units, past cutout, cotton is no longer vulnerable to economic damage from plant bugs and bollworms. It is also no longer susceptible to economic damage from stink bugs at 450 (DD60) post cutout. Bolls that will reach maturity by harvest will be too hard for the respective pests to feed on at this stage. Below, I collected accumulated heat units every 5 days to help farmers with calculating when to stop spraying for stinkbugs.

**Table 1. Heat unit accumulation from June 20 through August 3.**

Date	Heat Unit Accumulation
Jun 20-24	115.5
Jun 25-29	130
Jun 30-July 4	131
July 5-9	116.5
July 10-14	111
July 15-19	113
July 20-24	109
July 25-29	91.5
July 30- August 3	123.5

**Cotton:** This week most of our cotton bolls are at the mature stage with no nodes above white flower (NAWF) in the Wharton, Jackson, and Matagorda counties, and are well past cutout and are in open bolls stage. In some areas we are seeing a low of 40% cracked bolls and is averaging about 7-8 nodes above cracked bolls and other areas I see a high of 94% open bolls averaging about 5 nodes above cracked bolls in the Wharton, Matagorda, and Jackson area.

We are still seeing a few brown stink bugs (**Figure 1**) in Matagorda and Wharton County area. Once the cotton has reached 450 DD60 beyond cutout, sampling and treating for stink bugs may no longer be necessary since

bolts produced after this point will not become fully mature or contribute significantly to the crop yield. However, it is possible that this value may shift slightly due to factors such as boll shading, variety, and water stress.



**Figure 1. Brown stink bug in cotton past cutout**

**Soybeans:** Our soybeans are looking pretty good with decent yield potential and most areas are at the R8 to harvest stage. They are drying down and in about three weeks soybeans will be harvested. I am still seeing loopers at 50 per 100 sweeps and seeing red banded stink bugs (RBSB) at 136 per 100 sweeps. Red banded stink bugs can damage soybeans up to R7, especially under wet humid conditions. If you have RBSB and you are going to be applying a harvest aid, it may be very useful to include 0.75 lbs/ac of acephate to eliminate the stink bugs. (**Figure 2**). The threshold for loopers is 8 worms  $\frac{1}{2}$  per inch or 150 worms in 100 sweeps and for RBSB it is 16 per 100 sweeps. The soybean looper has developed resistance to many insecticides, particularly pyrethroids. Pyrethroids will make looper infestations worse than not spraying. There are some good options, most notably those that contain the active ingredient chlrorantraniliprole such as Vanatacor, Besiege, Elevest and Shenzi. Intrepid Edge is effective, and higher rates of Intrepid are usually effective although some resistance issues do exist with this product. Steward is also a product that is effective in controlling loopers (**Table 2**). For stink bugs, products that contain bifenthrin or acephate have activity, but if populations are very high these products will need to be tank mixed to get acceptable control (**Table 3**).



**Figure 2. Soybean loopers and Red banded stink bug.**

**Table 2. Insecticide treatment for soybean loopers.**

Insect	Insecticide	Amount of Concentrate per Acre	Acre Treated per Gallon or Pound SP
Soybean looper	chlorantraniliprole Vantacor	1.7-2.5 oz	75.3 – 51.2
	methoxyfenozone Intrepid	6.0-10.0 oz	21.0 - 12.5
	bifenthrin, chlorantraniliprole Elevest	5.6-9.6 oz.	22.8 – 13.3
	Lambda-cyhalothrin, chlorantraniliprole Besieg	5-8 oz.	25.6 - 16
	methoxyfenozone, spinetoram Intrepid Edge	4.0-6.4 oz.	32-20
	chlorantraniliprole Shenzi	1.7-3.8 oz	75.29 – 33.68
	indoxacarb Steward	5.6-11.3 oz	22.86 – 11.33

**Table 3. Insecticide treatment for red banded stink bug.**

Insect	Insecticide	Amount of Product per Acre	Acre Treated per Gallon or Pound
Red banded stink bugs	acephate	0.75-1.0 lbs	1.33-1.0
	bifenthrin	6.4 fl-oz	20
	acephate bifenthrin	(0.5-1.0 lbs) + 5-6.4 fl-oz	(2-1.0) + 25.6-20

**Pasture fields:** If you are a hay grower, then scouting for fall armyworms (FAW) should be frequent. The key to managing FAW is to detect infestations before they have caused economic damage. FAW larvae feed primarily during the night and during cloudy weather. During the day, look for FAW under loose soil and fallen leaves on the ground. The presence of chewed leaves can indicate FAW are present. Small larvae chew the green layer from the leaves and leave a clearing or “window pane” effect and consume only a small amount of foliage. For this reason, infestations can go unnoticed unless the field is closely inspected. I scouted a pasture and found over 100 FAW per 25 sweeps, threshold for insecticide spray treating a pasture is 3 or more FAW per square foot or 2 or more per sweep. One other way to know without checking that they are present is noticing flocks of birds in your pasture because they feed on FAW. There are good products in controlling FAW such as in particular a product that contains active ingredient chlorantraniliprole such as Vanatacor, Besiege, and Shenzi. Intrepid Edge is effective, and higher rates of Intrepid are usually effective although some resistance issues do exist with this product. See table for product use (**Table. 4**).



**Figure 3. Fall armyworms and damage**

**Table 4. Insecticide treatment for Fall armyworms.**

<b>Insect</b>	<b>Insecticide</b>	<b>Amount of Concentrate per Acre</b>	<b>Acre Treated per Gallon or Pound SP</b>
<b>Fall armyworms</b>	chlorantraniliprole Vantacor	1.7 – 2.5 oz	75.3 – 51.2
	methoxyfenozide Intrepid	6.0 – 10.0 oz	21.0 - 12.5
	chlorantraniliprole Shenzi	1.7 – 3.8 oz	75.29 – 33.68
	Lambda- cyhalothrin + chlorantraniliprole Besieg	5-8 oz.	25.6 - 16
	Lambda- cyhalothrin Lambda-Cy	1.92 – 3.2 oz.	66.67 - 40