

## **IPM NEWSLETTER**

### **Update for Field Crops and Their Pests**

No. 5

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CONTENTS (links): [Cotton update](#) [Cotton planting forecast](#) [Burndown](#) [Insects issues](#)

**Reminder:** Cotton Scout School, West Tennessee Research and Education Center (Jackson), May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Registration begins at 8:30 AM. No pre-registration or fee is required.

#### **Cotton Crop Update (Larry Steckel, Assistant Professor)**

The Tennessee Ag-statistics Agency reports that about 7% of the crop is planted. This is on par with the 5 year average. There is very little cotton planted in West Tennessee. What was planted in early to mid April is for the most part up to a stand. We have heard that about 40 to 50% of the cotton crop has been planted in Middle Tennessee. Just a few weeks ago I thought we had a good chance of getting a large number of acres planted in April. With just a few days left in the month it is very evident that will not happen. It looks like we will have a typical year where 80% of the cotton crop is planted in about a 7 day period in May. As we all know, that can cause some issues later in the year managing the crop.



#### **Five Day Cotton Planting Forecast (Larry Steckel and Scott Stewart)**

The cooler temperatures are forecasted to continue over the next 5 days. DD60 accumulation will be few and far between particularly for the Dyersburg and Jackson areas. There is a good chance of rain Saturday and Sunday and a slight chance the early part of next week. The weather forecast does not look all that favorable for planting.

##### **North Tennessee (Dyersburg)**

**Predicted DD60 accumulation over the next 5 days – 11 (Poor)**

**Weather outlook –** Friday will be the warmest day of the next 5 days with a high of 76 and a low of 56. Temperatures gradually taper off as we move into next week with highs in the high 60s and lows in the low 50s.

##### **Central Tennessee (Jackson)**

**Predicted DD60 accumulation over the next 5 days – 12 (Poor)**

**Weather outlook –** Friday will be the warmest day of the next 5 days with a high of 75 and a low of 53. Temperatures gradually taper off as we move into next week with highs in the low 70s and lows in the high 40s.

## South Tennessee (Memphis)

**Predicted DD60 accumulation over the next 5 days** – 23 (Marginal)

**Weather outlook** – Friday will be the warmest day of the next 5 days with a high of 77 and a low of 59. Temperatures gradually taper off as we move into next week with highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

Forecast DD60s after planting	Estimated Planting Conditions
<10	Very Poor
11-15	Poor
16-25	Marginal
25-50	Good
>50	Very Good

## Burndown Consideration (Larry Steckel)

Not since 2002 or 2003 when glyphosate-resistant horseweed was becoming widespread have so many had such a frustrating time trying to control it. There will be quite a few acres with follow-up applications of either Ignite 280 or Gramoxone Inteon applied over the next week to control escaped horseweed. There are several cotton growers spending 20 plus dollars an acre just trying to control this weed. Unlike 2002 and 2003 though, we are not the only ones in this boat as our friends in Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri are struggling with horseweed escaping the initial burndown as well. Visiting with some of my colleagues from those states it really does appear that the environment was a major factor. Dry soil conditions were a constant across much of the north Delta region in early April. With dry soils the only way dicamba could move into the horseweed was through the foliage. With moist soils horseweed typically picks up dicamba through both the roots and leaves.



## **Managing GR Horseweed Escapes**

I have had quite a few phone conversations this week with folks debating on whether to use Gramoxone Inteon or Ignite 280 to re-treat horseweed that has escaped a burndown application. Both herbicides can do the job but one must be aware that herbicide rates, air temperature and tank mix partners must be figured into the decision. Ignite 280 at a rate of 23 oz/A has been used for a re-treat this spring of horseweed with very good results. The applications were made when temperatures were in the 80s during the day and 60s at night. However, the temperatures over the next 5 days will be much cooler which can drastically reduce the horseweed control Ignite can provide. Therefore in order to have the best chance to control horseweed one should use 29 oz/A of Ignite 280 plus either Cotoran or Caparol or Direx. Gramoxone Inteon is not as temperature sensitive but typically does not do as good a job on horseweed that is over 4" tall. To combat taller horseweed use at least 36 oz/A (48 oz/A would be better) of Gramoxone Inteon and add either Cotoran or Caparol or Direx in order to greatly improve the chances of success. The tankmix partners added to these will not only improve the

burndown control of horseweed but will provide residual control for horseweed and pigweed.

### **Soybean Weed Control**

Dicamba has worked well on horseweed in some counties. In a few cases it worked too well as soybeans planted 15 to 18 days after a dicamba application have shown injury. Last spring we conducted a study funded by the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board evaluating soybean injury after dicamba applications 0, 7, 14, 21 and 28 days before planting. Based on that research we believe the level of injury in these particular fields will likely not be yield reducing. However where it was overlapped on the turn rows and around utility poles replanting will probably be necessary.



FirstRate has been mixed with glyphosate on several acres this year to burndown GR horseweed before soybean planting. It is working very slowly. Like many of the burndown applications this spring the jury is still out on whether it will control the horseweed.

Horseweed regrowth in soybean burndown acres can be managed with either Ignite or Gramoxone. Adding 4 oz of Sencor is recommended with either of these applications for good control. Another option is to wait until the horseweed begins to show some good regrowth and spray with FirstRate.

### **Corn Weed Control**

From walking corn fields in West Tennessee it is evident that the corn crop got off to a very good start. Maturity wise it has moved along very quickly. Some corn plants are at the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> leaf stage. Corn at these stages has already started to reach the cut off point for applications of some herbicides. Typically the best way to determine the maturity of a corn plant is to observe the number of fully opened leaves (collars showing on back side of leaf). Listed below are the corn maturity cut-off stages for some of the more popular POST herbicides. Some of these herbicides are also labeled for directed application to prevent crop injury and provide better spray coverage. Be sure to read the herbicide label for other directions and restrictions.



<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Corn leaf collar stage</u>	<u>Corn Height</u>
Accent	6	20"
Atrazine	--	12"
Buctril	8	--
Clarity (Pint Rate)	5	8"
Callisto	--	30"
Hornet	--	24"
Option	6	16"
Steadfast	7	20"
2,4-D	--	8"
Roundup WeatherMax (RR corn only)	8	30"

### Insect Issues (Scott Stewart, IPM Specialist)

I've received no calls this week about true armyworms in wheat, other crops or pasture. There is not enough cotton or soybean out of the ground to have any serious insect problems. But now is the time to scout any seedling plants for cutworms or any other seedling pest problems.

**Corn:** a number of below ground pests can reduce stands. Rarely, this may force replanting (there is no post-emergence cure for pests such as wireworm, white grub, seedcorn maggot and rootworms). Hence, the key is to identify any stand problems early so a quick re-planting decision can be made. An effective seed treatment or granular insecticide should be used if a replant results from insect injury to the original stand. An early sign of generic insect injury, often underground feeding, is "deadheart". This condition is when the newest emerged, center whorl leaf begins to wilt and wither (pictured right). Deadheart indicates the growing point of the plant has been killed. Affected corn plants may not die, but they will never really recover. You should count them as dead plants when making stand counts.



**Soybean:** Last year, there were some high thrips populations in some soybean fields. Thrips are rarely an economic pest of soybean, but with the adoption of earlier planting dates, they may pose a bigger threat. The only threshold I am aware of is to "treat when stands are threatened." I'm not sure when that is. Thrips injury in soybean is similar that that in cotton (discoloration/silvering of leaves but usually with less leaf crinkling). Plants can tolerate relatively high populations because soybeans are not particularly

sensitive to thrips injury (and there are many more plants to the acre). The best advice I have is to check your fields for any obvious symptoms of thrips injury. If you have to look hard, you don't have a significant problem. It is one of those things --- you'll know when there bad enough to require treatment. Be careful: Many thrips calls I ran last year turned out to be dicamba injury. If thrips are really the problem, you should be able to find many thrips per plant by vigorously shaking plants over a white surface (a sheet of paper, Styrofoam cup, or cool whip bucket).

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#### **DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

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