



## Current Crop and Insect Situation:

### General Situation:

Most growers have their cotton planted and have mixed stands. Some plantings have a variable stand others are just emerging and a few have a questionable stand. The rule of history is if you have two plants per foot of row keep the stand.

If your cotton is up and growing you can start looking for Thrips and Aphids. I talked to Jerry Stoll and he is finding Thrips and Cotton Aphids on the cotyledons in several fields in Tillman County. Thrips are something we expect but Cotton Aphids normally don't occur until later in the season. It's time to start scouting your fields.

I am going to insert information on Thrips written by Clyde Crumley. I have written about Thrips many times but like the description Clyde provided in his newsletter and want to share it with you. You can contact him at [crcrumley@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:crcrumley@ag.tamu.edu)

### Thrips:

With some fields varying from emergence to the cotyledon stage thrips activity needs to be monitored on a regular basis. Heavy thrips migrations are currently occurring as bordering crops and/or weeds dry down and mature. Prolonged migration can occur for fields that are next to pastures and weedy areas, so keep a careful watch on those plants. Fields that still fit these criteria and that were treated with an at-plant systemic or seed treated insecticide have already shown signs that the residual is wearing off. These fields need to be monitored closely as heavy infestations may destroy terminal buds resulting in stunted growth ( Figure 1 – Thrips damaged cotton terminal). Treatment is advised when the number of thrips averages 1 or more per true-leaf present. **Thus far, thrips in cotton have been highly variable however, as a word of caution, be very careful to watch those fields which are struggling.** Orthene® would be product of choice and will tank mix well with Glyphosate. **Now, be careful when scouting as thrips damage and wind damage are often confused with each other. Also remember, that insecticidal control is rarely justified once plants reach the 5-7 true leaf stage, or when plants begin to square.**



**Figure 1 - Thrips injured cotton terminal**

This description sounds a lot like what I have provided in past years. This year I suggest using Bidrin if you have cotton aphids or any of the other products registered for use on Thrips. Our Thrips migration has started and will continue as the wheat dries and matures.

## Cotton Aphids

Cotton aphids are small, slow moving, highly prolific insects that feed primarily on the underside of cotton leaves (figure 2). The two black [tail-pipe like structures protruding from the back of the abdomen of cotton aphids](#) are known as cornicles, and are a useful character in aphid identification. "[Cupped leaves](#)" can result when high numbers of aphids feed on young developing leaves. Heavy, prolonged infestations of aphids are capable of causing [severe stunting](#). Aphids also excrete honeydew, which under arid late season conditions can result in a condition known as "sticky cotton" that can cause problems at spinning mills.



**Figure 2 – Cotton Aphids in underside of leaf.**

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