

Fort Bend Ag & Natural Resources Newsletter

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Welcome to May!

Howdy everybody! I hope your spring is going well. My fiancé and I just had our five year anniversary! Boy how time flies when you spend it with love ones. As summer approaches and crops get into the ground try to take some time and spend it creating memories with your love ones!

Pest Report

- As cotton plants start emerging this time of year, one of the major pests I have been seeing in fields in the county is thrips. Thrips are tiny insect pest found



in many crops in production agriculture. Thrips feed on young cotton plants by using their piercing and sucking mouth parts to suck up fluids from the plants. Evidence of thrip damage include silvering of the lower leaves, loss of plant terminal, blacking of leaves, and curling of leaves. Thrip infestations can cause loss of plant vigor, stand reduction, and delays in fruiting and maturity. Below are some methods and keys for scouting and making management decisions on controlling thrips.

- Seeds treating with insecticides assist greatly in controlling thrips. These seed treatments usually protect the plant up to the two to three true leaf stage. Scouting your fields twice a week for thrips is a good practice should post emergence treatment be needed. Start scouting once the cotton has reach about 50 percent stand. Select 25 random plants in the field and look for thrips. Look at the top and bottom of leaves and terminals. Thrips like to hide in tight areas of the plant. Should damage be present at threshold levels, a foliar or systemic treatment might be warranted.

- Threshold for Thrips in cotton

# Of True Leaves	#Of Thrips Per Plant
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5 +	Treatment is rarely effective

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