



Cotton Comments

OSU Southwest Oklahoma Research and Extension Center
Altus, OK



August 9, 2018

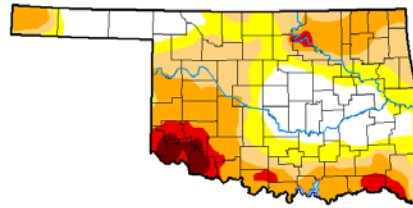
Volume 8 No.8

2018 Current Situation

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

August 7, 2018

(Released Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	24.42	75.58	54.88	32.30	7.72	2.55
Last Week (7/30-2018)	22.31	77.69	55.48	32.39	6.81	0.00
3 Months Ago (5/29-2018)	46.23	53.77	48.37	42.33	34.40	23.41
Start of Calendar Year (1/1-2018)	0.00	100.00	77.15	38.76	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (9/26-2017)	64.46	35.54	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (8/8-2017)	59.23	40.77	13.72	3.47	0.00	0.00

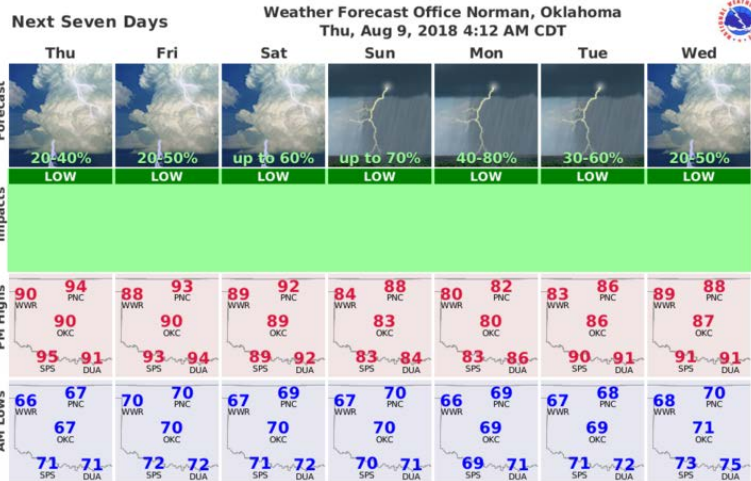
Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Although the 2018 drought continues, the next seven day forecast calls for cooler temperatures and rain state wide. Hopefully this will occur.

Crop Update

The crop is advancing on a rapid pace. Fields are being reported that are at 4 and 5 NAWF status that has not experience any drought stress. Reports of more sighting of spider mites as occurred in Tillman county (Jerry Stoll) and stinkbugs populations building in Caddo and Blaine county (Beck Johnson). Dr. David Kerns (Professor and Statewide IPM Coordinator with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at College Station) shared the information that bollworms were going thru Bt II gene around the Wellington, Texas area. Once again if the variety does not have the VIP gene extra effort needs to be taken on scouting for bollworms.

I cannot stress enough scouting of the field must be on a weekly basis until termination of the crop.

Stink Bugs

Stink bugs in Oklahoma cotton were not a concern until the advent of Bt varieties. Transgenic Bt cotton resulted in fewer insecticide applications for control of lepidopterous pests and soon after, stink bugs were occasionally noted as damaging pests. Although not typically found in economically damaging populations in most southwestern Oklahoma fields, some areas do have issues.



Green Stink Bug

Photo courtesy <http://stinkbugsguide.net/>



Conchuela Stink Bug

Photo courtesy of University of California



Brown Stink Bug

Photo courtesy <http://stinkbugsguide.net/>

The following information was taken from the Online Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Cotton Insect Management Guide, which is available here:

<http://cottonbugs.tamu.edu/fruit-feeding-pests/stinkbugs/>

This website also provides action thresholds and chemical control suggestions for this pest. Stink bugs are shield-shaped, flat and vary in size around 3/8 to 5/8-inch in length, and are about one-half as wide as their length. While the adult brown stink bug is light brown in color, the green and southern green stink bugs are bright green and similar in appearance. They can be distinguished from one another by color of the bands on their antennae. The southern green stink bug has red bands while the green stink bug has black bands. The conchuela stink bug adult is dark brown to black with a red border and a red spot on the tip of the abdomen. The harlequin bug is primarily a pest of mustards and cole crops and will occasionally infest cotton. Adult stink bugs

may live for several weeks. Stink bugs get their name from the foul smelling substance they exude from glands on their thorax. This chemical smell is meant to deter predators and warn other stink bugs of danger. This scent gland also plays a role in females attracting mates.

The reason stink bugs appear to concentrate in one part of the field and not others is due to the female's egg laying habits. A single female may lay 300 to 600 eggs, in clusters of 30 to 80 eggs. Egg clusters appear as rows of pale-green, pink or white barrels laid primarily on the underside of leaves. Eggs will typically hatch in 2 to 4 days under ideal conditions, but may require up to 2 weeks when temperatures are cool.



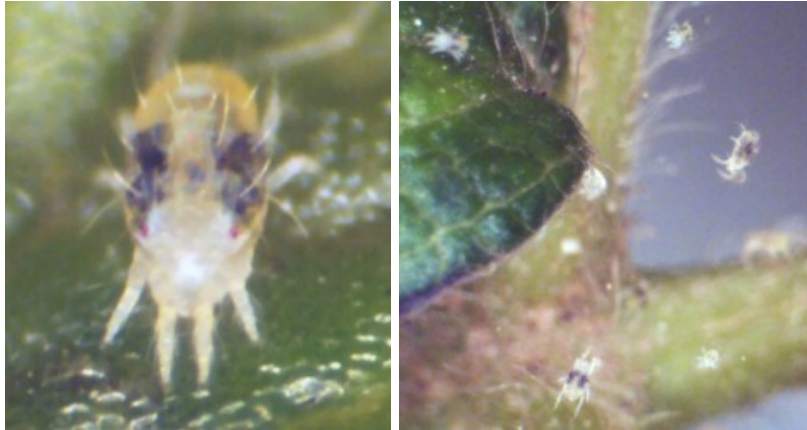
Hatching southern green stink bugs

Photo courtesy Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Stink bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts and damage cotton by piercing bolls and feeding on the developing seeds. Their feeding activity usually causes small bolls to abort but can result in dark spots about 1/16-inch in diameter on the outside of larger bolls where feeding occurred. These dark spots do not correlate well with the wart formation on the inside of the boll to be used in scouting. There may be several spots on a boll without internal feeding. The external lesions are associated with wart-like growths on the inner carpal wall where penetration occurred. Seed feeding may result in reduced lint production and stained lint near the feeding site. Stink bugs are also known to facilitate the infection of boll rotting microorganisms. Because of their size, adults and fourth and fifth instar nymphs have the greatest potential for damaging bolls.

Oklahoma generally only has green and brown stink bugs that can cause economic damage in some areas. However all stink bugs are found in Oklahoma. Many products used to control stink bugs can be disruptive to beneficial arthropods, therefore, contact Extension personnel if a question arises.

Spider Mites



Spider mites only occasional occurs in some years am publishing this section from Cotton Comments Volume 8 editions 7 newsletter once more.

Spider mites often attack cotton when insecticides have removed beneficial arthropod populations which normally keep this pest in check. Infestations are generally aided by hot, dry weather. In most cases, infestations will be localized in a field. Spider mites damage cotton by feeding on the plant juices and the foliage will turn a reddish or yellowish color under a heavy infestation. Mites are small in size and are generally found on the underside of the leaves. A close inspection is necessary to determine if mites are present. Before considering control measures please contact this office.

For a complete guide to spider mites, click here:

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Spider Mite Management Guide](#)

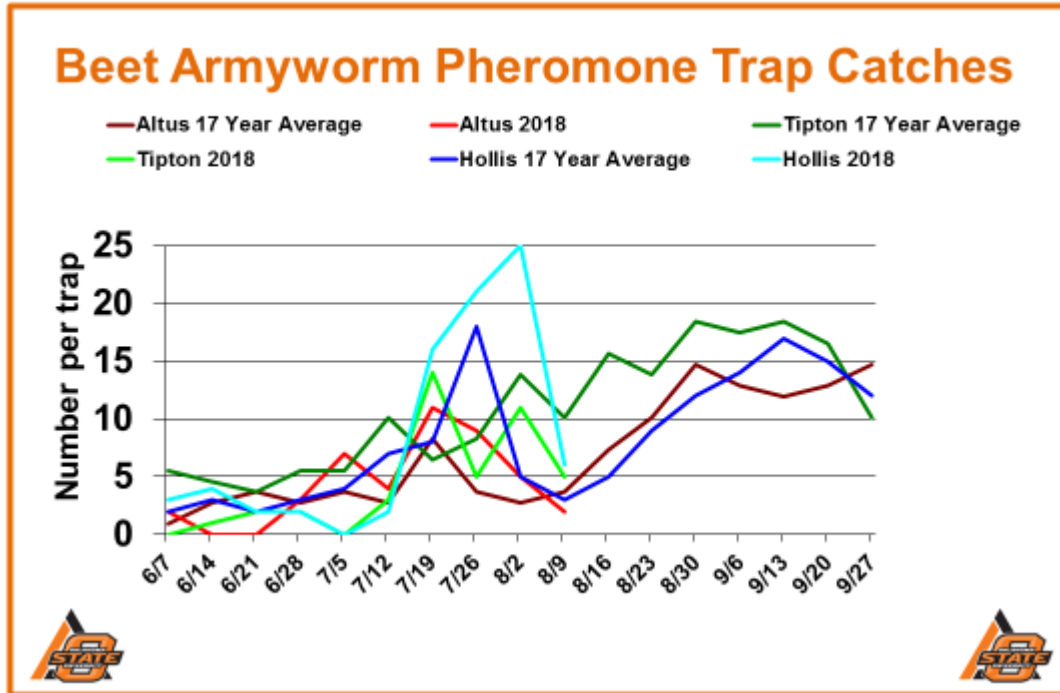
Sprayer Security

It saddens me to have to write this next section. Too many incidents have come to light where sprayers have been contaminated with certain herbicides by individuals to cause damage to a producer's crop. Personally I cannot understand this action but the world is made up with people with agendas and vendettas. Although sprayers cannot be 100% secured all the time some common sense actions can be taken.

- 1) Try to bring the equipment back to the equipment yard every night.
- 2) Place security cameras around the equipment yard (game cameras are fairly inexpensive).
- 3) Use ample lighting around the equipment yard, well lighted spaces can easily discouraged individuals from taking the chance of being seen.
- 4) Post signs that the area is being monitored.
- 5) If the sprayer has to be left in the field, do not park right next to turn in. If someone has to walk or drive into a field the effort may not be worth it.
- 6) Check around the sprayer first thing to see if any activity around the sprayer as occurred.
- 7) Finally just be aware that actions like this do occur and take precautions to protect oneself.

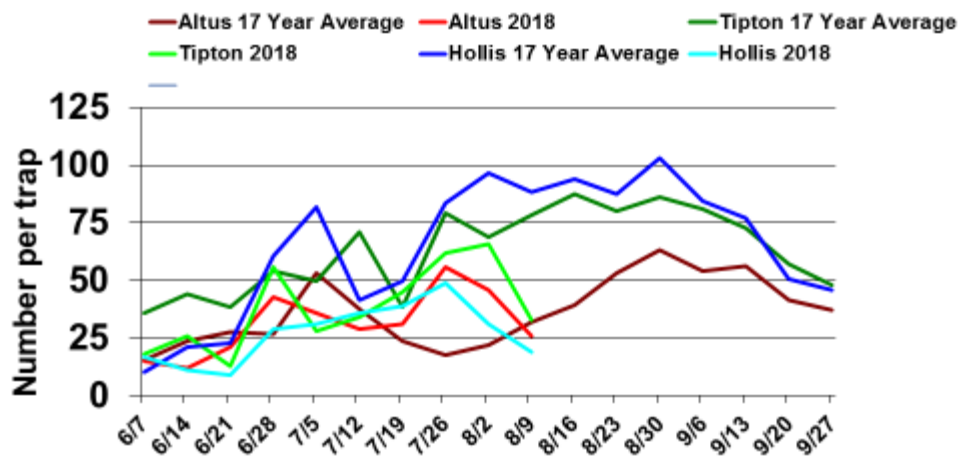
Moth Trap Counts 2018

Moth numbers are on the decrease which is not surprising with the current moon phase. *The drought will affect the bollworm moth distribution where they will seek out lush fields over drought stressed fields. The distribution of moths will more narrow and some fields will have more than their "share".*



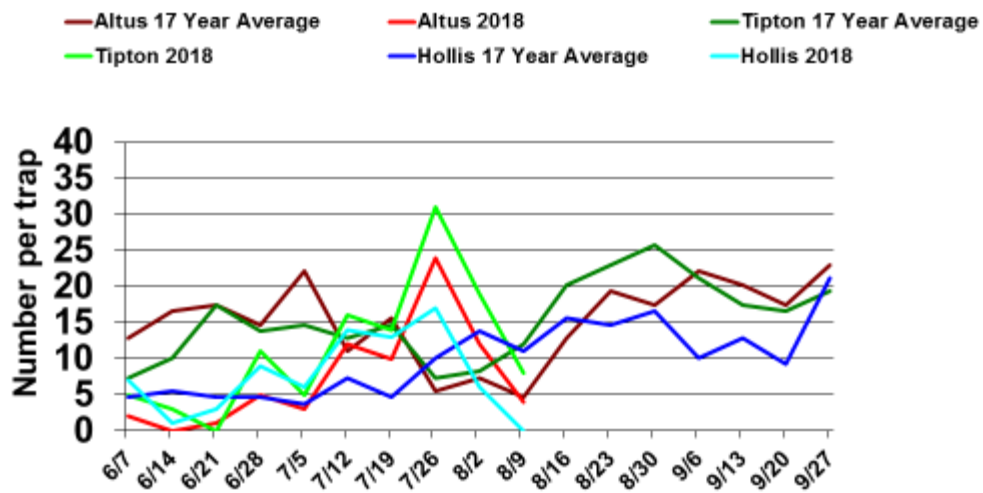
Beet armyworm moth
Photo courtesy of University of Georgia

Cotton Bollworm Pheromone Trap Catches



Cotton bollworm moth
Photo courtesy of University of Georgia

Tobacco Budworm Pheromone Trap Catches



Tobacco budworm moth
Photo courtesy of University of Georgia

Fall Armyworm Trap Results 2018

Date Week ending	Jackson	Tillman	Harmon	Caddo
6/8	5	0	7	5
6/15	2	3	4	7
6/22	9	4	5	11
6/29	16	12	9	18
7/6	11	16	18	25
7/13	19	31	21	34
7/20	14	20	18	16
7/27	9	14	16	29
8/3	7	11	15	23
8/10	3	2	6	14

Jackson OSU Southwest Research and Extension Center
 Tillman OSU Southwest Agronomy Research Station
 Harmon Harmon County Fair Complex
 Caddo Caddo Research Station



Photos courtesy Oklahoma State University

If you have questions concerning insect control issues, please call the OSU Southwest Research and Extension Center or contact your local OSU County Extension Educator. The Cotton Comments Newsletter is maintained by Jerry Goodson, Extension Assistant. If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, send a request to:

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