

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Week Ending June 23, 2007

Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California:

Native Pink Bollworm captures decreased for the sixth consecutive week. There were 3,489 Native Pink Bollworm captures this week, bringing the season total to 146,956 Native Pink Bollworm finds. This is a 40% reduction in native moths compared to last week. During the same period last year nearly twice as many natives were captured. A bait and lure change was completed this past week in Southern California.

Senior Economic Entomologist Daniel Keaveny tested two newly acquired black light traps in two test plots at the Brawley Experiment Station in Imperial Valley. The objective was to catch female native pink bollworm moths and dissect them to determine if they are mating with the sterile release moths. During the two nights the traps were tested, a total of 13 native males and one native female were trapped. The native female was unmated. A white sheet with a black light was set up for comparison purposes and no pink bollworm moths were attracted to it during the hours of 9:00 PM and 1:00 AM. The plots in which the black lights were tested are conventional cotton (non *Bt*) that had recently received a pheromone rope treatment. The traps will be tested again in conventional cotton being grown in the Bard-Winterhaven area near Yuma, Arizona. These fields have not been treated with pheromone and should yield many native moths during the next two generations.

Mass aerial sterile moth release continued this week with 1.97 million sterile moths being released on Sunday and Wednesday. A total of 6,611 sterile moths were trapped this week and the total number recaptured is 8,767 sterile moths.

San Joaquin Valley:

To date, trappers have placed 1,062 General Detection Traps in Kern County, 426 in Kings County and 144 in Tulare County. A total of 12,283,137 sterile moths were received and released for the week, bringing the season release total to 88,451,779. There were 1,773 sterile moths in the Kern County early detection traps, 150 in Kings County traps and 1,023 in Tulare County traps. No Native Pink Bollworm moths were found.

Minter Field Airport, Board of Directors, unanimously passed a request for authorization to execute the Lease Agreement with the State of California for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Pest Control Branch Pink Bollworm Sterile Moth Release facility in Shafter. Lease negotiations have been on going for two years between DGS and the Airport.

Sacramento Valley:

The latest heat unit projections indicate mapping and trapping will begin in mid August.