

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT
41 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California:

All cotton in the Bard/Winterhaven area of Imperial County has been harvested, shredded, and plowed under. Agricultural Pest Control Supervisor Jodi Brigman reports these fields are in compliance with the plowdown regulations. As a result, sterile moth releases will cease in this area beginning next week. Native Pink Bollworm (PBW) moth captures have leveled off. The native count for Imperial County this week was 190, compared to 191 captured last week. Compared to the same week in 2007, Imperial County trapped 97.9% fewer natives. The 163 natives caught in the “highway line” traps this week is a 16.8% decrease from the 196 caught last week and a 93.5% decrease from the same week in 2007. Riverside County natives caught this week totaled 751, a 141% increase over last week, but a 97.5% decrease from last year during the same week. The 105 moths trapped along the All American Canal and Interstate I-8 at the southern end of Imperial County represent an 92.6% decrease compared to 1,418 trapped during the same week in 2007.

The organic cotton at Gordon’s Well appears to have been abandoned. A conference call was held between Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner Steve Birdsall, Integrated Pest Control Branch Program Supervisor Jim Rudig, and Agricultural Pest Control Supervisor Jodi Brigman, to discuss the options available to eliminate the threat this field presents to the Pink Bollworm Area-Wide Eradication Program. Jodi Brigman reported that there were only scattered plants remaining in the seven acres not plowed under. The largest plants are only twelve inches in height and most of them are exhibiting severe damage, predominately by cotton leaf perforator. However, there are still squares, blooms, and bolls remaining on the surviving plants that could provide pink bollworm larvae an opportunity to develop sufficiently to diapause and overwinter. It was decided to contact the landowner and inform him that he could be held responsible if the grower does not bring the field into compliance.



Gordon’s Well Surviving Cotton

San Joaquin Valley:

There were 12,004,244 sterile moths released this week, bringing the season total to 175,038,335. The Shafter Identification Lab examined 345 traps containing 4,834 sterile moths in traps from Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, and Merced Counties. There were four natives trapped this week. Native find numbers 32-35 for the 2008 season were repeats of earlier finds in the cotton field near Dos Palos in Merced County. Agricultural Pest Control Specialist Larry Olagues and Senior Economic Entomologist Dan Keaveny collected two hundred bolls each from the Merced County native find field and the Fresno County native find field. An on-site examination of bolls was also made, looking for signs of pink bollworm damage such as stained lint and exit holes. The bolls collected will be held in incubation boxes and examined for emerging pink bollworm larvae.

Sacramento Valley:

Traps will be examined and removed in three weeks.