

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Hockley,
Cochran, Lamb,
Lubbock, Crosby,
Lynn, & Garza
Counties from
Kerry Siders



Sept. 13, 2025

Vol. 30 – No. 15



In General

I am seeing increasingly more cracked and open bolls. Right now, I am still seeing well over 5 nodes above the cracked boll (NACB), with the exception of some hot dryland. Not until we have fewer than 5 NACB will we be in the harvest aid game. Here is the link to the latest edition of the Texas High and Rolling Plains Cotton Harvest Aid Guide:

<https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2025/09/Texas-High-and-Rolling-Plains-Cotton-Harvest-Aid-Guide-SCSC-2025-18.pdf>

On pages 2-4 you will find an excellent update on the Cotton Jassid: A New Pest of Concern in Texas Cotton.

If you are a producer or crop consultant who listens to the High Plains IPM Audio Report please consider filling out the following evaluation:

https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1YcUt9klVdf9yGa

If you grew corn this season and dealt with the corn leafhopper to manage red stunt disease please consider completing the following survey:

https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1HThaE0uu7TT0xM

Update on Cotton Jassid: A New Pest of Concern in Texas Cotton

Suhas Vyavhare, David Kerns, Jose Santiago Gonzalez, and Patrick Porter

September 10, 2025

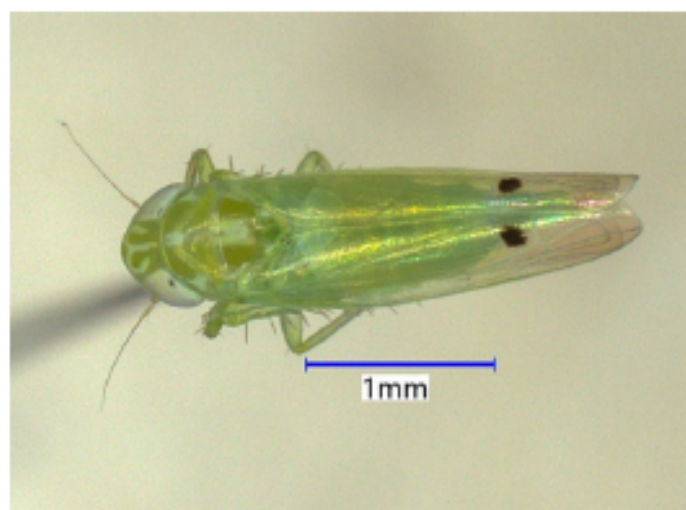
We are closely monitoring the recent invasion of cotton jassids, *Amrasca biguttula* Ishida (also known as the two-spot cotton leafhopper) in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina and we are keeping a close watch for this pest in Texas. In Texas this pest has been detected on hibiscus in big box store nurseries in Bellmead, McAllen, Weslaco, Harlingen, Victoria, Rosenberg, San Antonio, Cedar Park, College Station, Waco, Longview, Corpus Christi, and El Paso. There is also a probable detection of jassids in cotton in Wharton County, although this finding has not yet been fully confirmed. It appears that infested hibiscus plants were shipped from South Florida for sell throughout much on the southern U.S. The Texas Department of Agriculture is taking steps to eliminate this potential source of cotton jassid, and the situation is being investigated by USDA-APHIS. Whether or not this incident results in establishment of this pest in Texas remains to be determined.



Cotton jassids (Photo: Scott Graham, Auburn University)

Description

Adult cotton jassids measure approximately 1/8 of an inch (2-3 mm) in length and are pale green with yellowish-green wings. They can be distinguished from other leafhopper species by a prominent black spot on the apical area of each forewing and, often, by two dark spots on either side of the head. The markings sometimes can be faint or absent. Therefore, definitive morphological identification requires dissection and examination of the male genitalia by a specialist or confirmation through molecular testing.



Adult cotton jassid (Photo: Isaac Esquivel, University of Florida)



The eggs which are laid within the veins and midribs of leaves are yellowish-white, oblong, and less than 0.04 inches (1 mm) long, nearly invisible without magnification.

Newly hatched nymphs are wingless, pale green, and highly agile, often scuttling sideways or dropping from plants when disturbed. They are very small, typically less than 0.05 inches (1.27 mm) long—and difficult to distinguish from nymphs of other species. When disturbed, both adults and nymphs exhibit distinctive sideways movements and quick hopping behavior.



Jassid nymph (photo: Isaac Isquivel, University of Florida)

Established distribution

The cotton jassid's native range extends from Iran to Japan and Indonesia. It is a serious economic pest of cotton in the Indian subcontinent. In 2022 and 2023 it was reported as a serious pest of cotton in West Africa. It was found in Puerto Rico in 2023, followed by other Caribbean Islands and Florida in 2024. By 2025, infestations had been reported in multiple counties in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina.

Life cycle

Majority of the information comes from research conducted in the native range of pest. As per the literature, female cotton jassids lay multiple eggs (14 to 60), which hatch in approximately one week. The nymphal stage lasts 5 to 16 days, and adults live for up to five weeks. The total lifecycle duration varies with temperature and humidity. For example, in India, generation time ranges from 15 to 46 days, allowing up to 11 generations per year, largely due to the continuous availability of host plants in warmer climates.

Host range

Cotton jassid has a fairly broad host range primarily within the families Malvaceae, Fabaceae, Asteraceae and Solanaceae. This includes cotton, okra, peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, eggplant, potato, and many ornamental plants. When the pest invaded Florida it was first detected in high number infesting okra.

Cotton injury and symptoms

Nymphs and adults feed on the undersides of leaves, extracting sap with their piercing-sucking mouthparts and causing curling, yellowing, and bronzing of foliage—symptoms collectively referred to as “hopperburn.” Initial observations from Georgia indicate that jassid infestations and associated plant injury appear quickly after colonization and are most severe along field margins. Under heavy infestation, hopperburn symptoms extend throughout the field, leading to premature defoliation. Severe feeding stunts plant growth and can cause the premature drop of fruiting

structures, resulting in yield and quality losses. In India, this pest is reported to cause up to 50% of yield losses in cotton and is known to be extremely difficult to control. This species of leafhopper is not confirmed to be a vector of any pathogens. While the full impact on yields in U.S. cotton is still uncertain, Extension experts and researchers across the Southeast where the insect has been found to infest cotton fields are actively investigating the impact of this pest as well as potential control options.



Hopperburn and leaf reddening (Photo: Scott Graham, Auburn University)



Hopperburn symptoms (Photo: Scott Graham, Auburn University)

Treatment decision and insecticide efficacy data

Based on the initial studies done in Alabama and Georgia, the recommended treatment threshold for cotton jassid is one to two nymphs per leaf. Scouting should focus on the undersides of mainstem leaves at the third, fourth, or fifth node from the top of the plant. The threshold applies when injury symptoms are observed, which helps confirm correct identification, as other leafhopper species do not cause similar symptoms. Populations and damage typically appear first along field edges before spreading inward. The ‘hopperburn’ symptoms could be confused with Verticillium wilt or severe potassium deficiency at first glance. It is important to look underside of leaves for presence of insects. Although insecticide efficacy evaluations are ongoing, Bidrin, Sivanto Prime, Sefina, and Carbine have shown promise in Georgia and Alabama.



COCHRAN COUNTY FARM FAIR

September 18, 2025

County Show Barn
1883 FM 1780 Morton TX 79346

Booth Registration 8:30A.M.
Open to Public 9:30 A.M.

Free Lunch Provided
By: River Smiths
11:30 - 1:00

CEU SIGN UP at 9:30 1 CEU

FOR BOOTH RESERVATIONS CONTACT
SHAY BUTLER 806-266-5215
Shay.Butler@ag.tamu.edu

Cochran Farm Fair – Barker Research Farm Tour 9/18/25

10:00 AM Start at RACE Trial

Kerry Siders – Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

Dr. Ken Lege – Discuss RACE Trial at BRF (30 min)

Kerry & Ken – Why, When, & How of Cotton Harvest Aids (30 min)

Kerry – Quick update on pests. The projects at the BRF. (10-15 min)

Questions? Provide 1 TDA IPM CEU

11:30 AM Back to Fairgrounds for lunch etc.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



R.A.C.E.
Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluation



Hockley County R.A.C.E Trial Field Day

Thursday, October 2nd, 10 AM

**Scott Fred Farm – SW Corner of Hwy 385 and FM 2306,
(4 ½ miles north of Levelland on Hwy 385)**

1 CEU will be available

If questions call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Levelland at 806-894-3159

West Plains IPM Update is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, Lamb, Lubbock, Crosby, Lynn, and Garza Counties.

Editor: Kerry Siders, Extension Program Specialist-IPM

Contact information:

1212 Houston St., Suite 2 Levelland, TX 79336

(806) 894-3150 (office),

806 638-5635 (mobile)

kerry.siders@ag.tamu.edu (E-mail)



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