



## Current Crop and Insect Situation:

Planting continues across the state. Applications are being made for thrips that did not have seed treatment or in-furrow insecticide applied. With more cotton emerging once again weekly scouting is being recommended.

## Early Season Pest

Thrips are still the main pest to watch. Other pest to be on the look out for is False chinch bugs and grasshoppers.

False chinch bugs are “dry weather” pests.



False chinch bugs are long, narrow bodied, and gray brown. Immature bugs have inconspicuous red markings on the body. False chinch bugs often hide under plants or clods during the heat of the day. Don't confuse them with bigeyed bugs, which are wider with flatter heads. False chinch bugs migrate to cotton when weed hosts dry up or are destroyed by cultivation; migration can be a concern for cotton fields near pastures or rangelands that are drying down for the summer.

These bugs feed on seedlings. Individual bugs do little damage, but large migrations can severely injure or kill young plants in a few hours. Damage is usually confined to border rows.



Grasshoppers can be occasional early season pests.



In late summer and fall, grasshopper eggs are laid in grassy foothills, on ditchbanks, along roadsides and fence rows, in pasture areas, and in alfalfa fields. Depending on the species, there may be 8 to 25 eggs in each pod. The eggs hatch in spring and the young nymphs feed on nearby plants.

When wild grasses and other plants become dry, the grasshoppers migrate to irrigated croplands. Adult grasshoppers vary in appearance, but all have well developed back legs for jumping. The immature stage is similar to the adult but does not have wings. Depending on the species, there may be 8 to 25 eggs in each pod.

Grasshoppers feed on foliage, most often on the edges of fields near pasture areas or roadsides. When infestations are heavy, grasshoppers cause severe defoliation by feeding on foliage and tender plant parts.



## GROWING DEGREE DAY:

**A Growing Degree Day (GDD)** is defined as 24 hours of time in which the temperature is one degree above the lower temperature threshold (60°F - 100°F). By using this range and the high and low temperatures for each day of the growing season, the amount of heat available to the cotton, measured in day degrees, can be calculated. The heat unit data is collected from *Mesonet weather network weekly*.

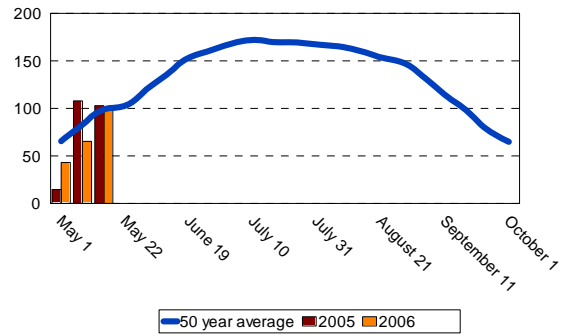
### Cotton Growth Timetable

<u>Stage of Growth</u>	<u>GDD</u>	<u>Days</u>
Emergence	50 - 60	3 - 4
Pinhead Square	425 - 500	25 - 45
First Bloom	725 - 825	41 - 67
Open Boll	1575 - 1925	102 - 127
Defoliation	2150 - 2300	120 - 140

## Altus

**Growing Degree Days (GDD)**

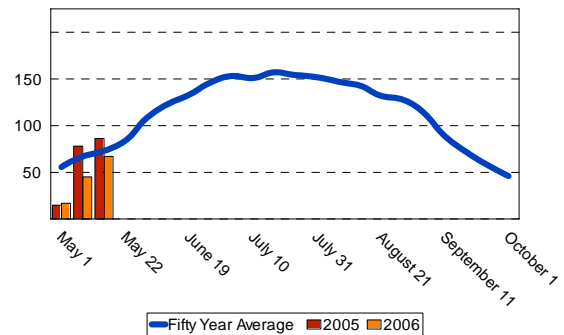
Week of	50 year	2005	2006
May 1	65.5	14.7	43.1
May 8	82.9	107.9	65.3
May 15	98.6	102.9	99.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>247.0</b>	<b>225.5</b>	<b>208.1</b>



## Blackwell

**Growing Degree Days (GDD)**

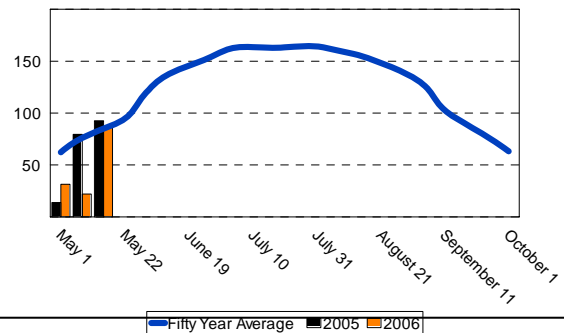
Week of	50 year	2005	2006
May 1	55.6	14.9	16.8
May 8	67.5	78.0	45.2
May 15	73.2	86.2	67.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>196.3</b>	<b>179.1</b>	<b>129.1</b>



## Hobart

**Growing Degree Days (GDD)**

Week of	50 year	2005	2006
May 1	62.3	13.8	31.4
May 8	76.2	79.6	22.4
May 15	84.9	92.6	86.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>223.4</b>	<b>186.0</b>	<b>139.7</b>



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