In-Season Monitoring Report

PIONEER agronomy

2025 Corn Leafhopper and Corn Stunt: Week of April 14th

Texas A&M Corn Leafhopper Trapping:

Information provided by David Kerns (Texas A&M Extension Entomologist)

Trapping Network

Coverage Area

- Lower Rio Grande Valley up to the Oklahoma Border

Trapping Methods

- Combined approach using sticky traps and vacuum sampling

Leafhopper Activity

Detection Locations

- Corn leafhoppers have been found in counties shaded in red in Figure 1
- Primarily detected on volunteer corn
- All corn leafhoppers caught to-date were via vacuum sampling

Disease Status

- Corn leafhoppers caught were not carrying corn stunt disease

Population Trends

- David Kerns signaled that the last 2-3 weeks of April were when populations picked up in 2024
- We anticipate the month of April to be very telling for what type of populations we can expect in 2025.

More Information

- David Kerns regularly shares updates on corn leafhopper activity through his radio extension program:
  South Texas Agricultural Pest Updates on SoundCloud

Symptoms of Corn Stunt

- Symptoms appear one to eight weeks after inoculation
- Start with small chlorotic stripes at the base of leaves on young plants
- Stripes expand and coalesce over time
- Leaves may develop a reddish to reddish-purple color
- Infected plants can have shortened internodes and shortened final height
- Ears of infected plants are typically smaller and do not fill properly

Additional Resources

Corn Stunt Disease | Pioneer® Seeds

Corn Leafhopper - *Dalbulus maidis* by Texas A&M

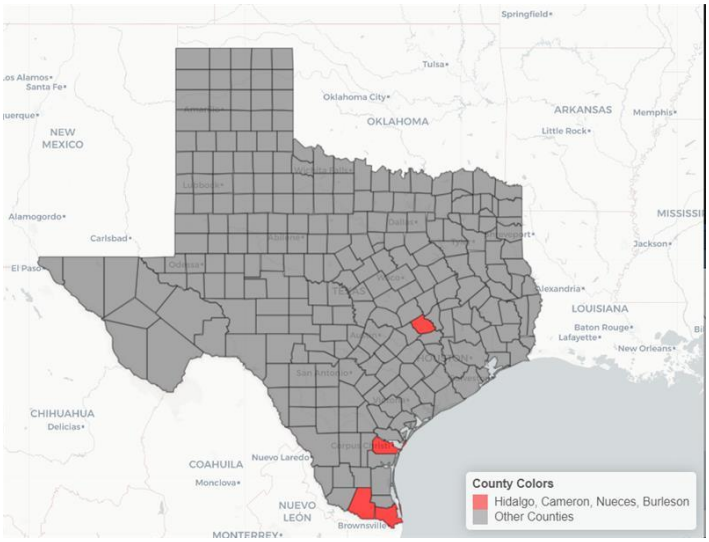

Figure 1: Map of Texas with four counties shaded red where Texas A&M detected small numbers of corn leafhoppers to-date in 2025.

Management

- Managing the corn leafhopper vector is the only means of preventing infection of the corn stunt disease
- The threshold for foliar insecticide treatment is merely the presence of corn leafhoppers
- Corn leafhopper reproduction is dependent on the presence of live corn plants for the leafhoppers to feed and reproduce
- Other grass crops such as wheat, sorghum, rye, and bermudagrass can serve as a reservoir for leafhopper populations, but corn leafhoppers are unable to reproduce on these alternatives
- Cultural control practices are largely focused on eliminating the continuous presence of corn through crop rotation, narrowing the planning window, and controlling volunteer corn

Need Help Identifying *Dalbulus maidis*?

Figure 2: Comparison of *Dalbulus maidis* (left) and Aster Leafhopper (right). Submit specimens to Corteva's diagnostic lab for accurate identification.

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