

PEST: Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*)

BASIC PROFILE: The cotton seed bug (CSB) attacks cotton seed and may damage seed from related hosts such as okra, kenaf, hollyhock and some mallows. It moves between hosts seasonally depending on availability. In cotton, eggs are laid in open bolls. Nymphs are wingless, have a pinkish abdomen and there usually are 5 nymphal instars. Adults are black with white translucent wings and are ~4 mm (1/8 inch) long. Both nymphs and adults feed on host plant seeds. Adults may enter diapause (a period of suspended growth and activity) when host are not available, usually in field trash or other areas of refuge near hosts sites. CSB feeding renders the seed useless and cotton lint quality is reduced due to discoloration when CSB is crushed during processing. If established in Louisiana there could be up to ~6 generations annually. Heavy rainfall may negatively affect CSB survival and establishment.

LDAF ACTIVITY: CSB has not yet been found in Louisiana but it occurs in south Florida and Puerto Rico. In theory, it potentially can be moved by hurricane activity but man-assisted movement is the most likely method of spread – as a hitchhiker in smuggled plant baggage, on cargo or on cut flowers from CSB-infested areas. There are federal restrictions in place for foreign material. No domestic federal quarantines are in place yet but restrictions may be established at some point. LDAF may conduct targeted surveys for CSB in the future.

