

PEST: Boll Weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*)

BASIC PROFILE: The boll weevil (BW) attacks cotton and is considered one of the worst cotton pests known. Adults are variable in color: yellow, gray to brown 6-10 mm (1/4 – 3/8”) long. Eggs are laid in cotton squares or bolls where larvae hatch and feed for 7-14 days before pupating. Larvae are 5-10 mm (3/16 – 3/8”) long, white, strongly curved and wrinkled on the back, with a brown head. Adults emerge from bolls 3-7 days after pupation and feed on cotton terminals, squares or maturing bolls causing fruit drop and significant yield losses. There can be up to 8 generations annually but 4 is the norm. Adults enter diapause (a period of suspended growth and activity) in winter, usually in field trash or in wooded areas adjacent to cotton fields.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF maintains an active boll weevil eradication program statewide: mapping, trapping and treating cotton fields annually in an attempt to eliminate this insect pest from the state. The state program is part of a national eradication program that has been going on for many years in cooperation with USDA-APHIS-PPQ.



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ARS-USDA Photo



TX BW Erad. Foundation

ADULTS

DAMAGED BOLL & LARVAE