

AgFax: Southeast Cotton

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Here is this week's *AgFax: Southeast Cotton*, sponsored by the Southeast field staff of **Nichino America**, maker of **ET**[®] herbicide/defoliant and **Artisan**[®] peanut fungicide.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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OVERVIEW

Planting was underway this week on a wide basis. North Alabama continues to miss rain, and growers are irrigating cotton and corn in that part of the state.

Warmer temperatures are helping improve the looks of some of the earlier planted cotton, but in many cases it is showing the effects of prolonged cold conditions.

These reports were made Thursday.

CROP REPORTS

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist:

"It's turned off dry, and that's good right now. We're close to having 75% of our cotton planted. A whole lot of folks are pecking to get the seed out of the ground. Growers are questioning whether it's the cold weather we've had or the hard packing rain that's working against emergence. Overall, I don't think this will hurt many folks because they're pecking early, which is what you should do."

Steve M. Brown, Extension Cotton Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:

"We're close to being 40% planted. There's been a lot of activity over the last week. We seemed to have turned the corner on temperatures last weekend, and conditions are much more favorable for cotton germination

and emergence. Stands are starting to come up. We're kind of creeping into the time that we could use another shower to help keep things moving.

"With what we've planted so far, seed depth has been very critical. Cool, wet conditions have given us an unfavorable situation, and cotton planted too deep has been struggling. We lost a lot of time in April due to the weather, so it's also going to be a rather compressed season in terms of getting both cotton and peanuts planted in the same period."

Charlie Burmester, Extension Cotton Agronomist, Belle Mina, Ala.:

"We're awfully dry in north Alabama. We've missed a lot of rain this spring and are now running about 7 inches behind normal since January 1. Where people can, they're

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irrigating cotton and corn.

"We're pinning a lot of hopes on showers that are supposed to develop over the weekend. We've got cotton planted in dry dirt, hoping it will come up. Some of the earlier cotton was replanted last week, and that needs a rain to get a stand.

"Cotton that's up varies. Some looks pretty good and is starting it's second true leaf, but some is struggling and still looks sickly. Hot weather is visibly affecting it in the afternoon.

"Cotton seems the most adversely affected in notill fields. That soil has been just enough colder that it affected cotton this season. Those plants came up slower and were affected more than plants in conventional fields."

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: "Cotton has not grown very much. Cotton planted a month ago is very short. We're probably 2 weeks behind due to cooler weather and packing rains. Seed germinated slowly and emergence was slow, too. Now that the weather is warmer, though, anything that's up

and has adequate moisture will grow faster.

"In our conventional fields I've seen a lot of clods due to the soil being worked too wet. Some strip-till fields that were stripped off earlier will be alright."

Mike Sullivan, Research Entomologist, Edisto REC, Blackville, S.C.: "Everyone is going just as fast as they can. It's dry. We've had spotty rain. A few areas maybe got six tenths on Tuesday, but a lot of places received less than that. Guys in our area who are strip-tilling and killed vegetation 4-6 weeks ago still have moisture and are planting. I don't have a good feel for where we are state-wide, but in this area we're about 50% finished. This morning (Thursday) the stuff planted a week ago was popping out of the ground."

Keith Edmisten, North Carolina Extension Cotton Specialist: "Everybody I've talked to is planting big time. A little rain came in late last night. That may have put land on hold in spots, but in a lot of cases they probably were

planting again by this afternoon on lighter soils. Altogether, we're 65% to 70% planted."

Bobby Boutwell, Royster-Clark Farmmarket, Jay, Fla.: "About 50% of our cotton and 50% of our peanuts have been planted. We were wet and cold for so long that planting really didn't start up until about 10 days ago. We're late, no doubt about it. Our peanut acreage will increase about 20%, and that gain mostly came out of cotton."