

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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Here is this week's **AgFax**, sponsored by the Midsouth staff of Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of **Suprend™** herbicide.

OVERVIEW

Pest activity is picking up. A few aphid and plantbug treatments are being made. Spider mites are turning up earlier than usual in NE Arkansas and the Missouri Bootheel. Thrips still dog later planted cotton.

Nearly all of our coverage area has gotten rain in the last week, with amounts in some places running 3-4 inches.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "Aphids are building in SE Arkansas, and populations are approaching treatment level in some fields. Thrips are still bad in parts of our late cotton. Low rates of Orthene and Bidrin aren't giving as much control as we usually expect. We're collecting samples to ID and think there may be a higher pro-

portion of western flower thrips in the mix. Spider mites are building in places. This is odd with all the rain, but there's been a transition with mites for several years. It's no longer something we just find in dry weather.

"In south Arkansas we're getting fruit on cotton, and plantbugs have built. They're at treatment level in a lot of fields. On the whole, this already looks like it could be a big bug year."

Charles Denver, Denver Crop Consulting, Watson, Ark.:

"Thrips are about the only thing in our cotton right now. We treated quite a bit, but they're winding down now except in later cotton. We've gotten 3.8" of rain since Friday. Amounts were somewhat higher as you went north and tended to decrease a little as you went south."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.:

"We've gotten more rain over the weekend and early this week. NW Louisiana may be drier than most other parts of the state, and NE Louisiana is pretty saturated. Showers continue to be in

the forecast.

"Aphids started building about a week ago. You can find them pretty widely now. They're not at treatable levels where I've been. With the rains we're getting, I don't anticipate treatments in the next week or so.

"Plantbug numbers seemed to have automatically shot up when cotton began squaring. There are treatable infestations in many cases. The big issue is how to treat plantbugs, recognizing that some materials will likely flare aphids. Growers should strongly consider newer materials."

Scott Stewart, Extension Cotton Entomologist, Jackson, Tenn.:

"We're still worried about thrips in later cotton and just starting to think about plantbugs in older cotton. It's been a pretty steady thrips year, and they're still with us in places, especially where cotton was planted in the last 2 weeks. Weed control was delayed due to thrips work and planting and replanting, so that's where attention is turning now."

Victor Roth, Roth Farm Ser-

Continued on next page

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vice, Malden, Mo.: “We’re in pretty fair shape with our herbicide programs. We treated thrips before the last big rain. In-furrow and seed treatments weren’t quite enough this year.

“I’m in a field right now (Tuesday afternoon) looking at spider mites on 4-leaf cotton. They’re not an issue yet but could be when we come back with our first insecticides. I’ve noted them earlier this year than ever before, not just in one field but several.”

Tommy Baine, UAP Delta, Tunica, Miss.: “We made our first application today of a Pix-type product. We’re still fighting some thrips. Other than that, there isn’t much going on in cotton yet.”

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: “Most of our Delta crop is setting squares, and we’re looking for plantbugs. A few fields have been sprayed. Part of our later cotton is still being hit by thrips. Overall, our hill cotton seems a little behind the Delta in the square set stage.”

David Hydrick, Hydrick’s Crop Consulting, Inc., Jonesboro, Ark.: “We just got 1-2” of rain and a lot of wind. It hurt cotton in sandier ground, especially in conventional beds, but we even had some damage in no-till cotton. We’re still treating thrips. It seems to be a combination of western flower thrips and black onion thrips. They started working on some cotton as it came out of the ground, even where we had Cruiser or a 7-lb rate of Temik.

“Spider mites, though, may be the pest of the year for us. It’s the worst I’ve ever seen them this early, and we’re doing quite a bit of work with Zephyr.

“We’ve got cotton at 8-9 leaves now. On part of our older cotton

I’ve recommended our second Trimax or Centric application for plantbugs, but we’re also just now making the first applications on some of our oldest fields.

“We likely will lose most of our cotton on the riverside of the levee. We haven’t cut any wheat there, either, and we’re just waiting for the river to get it. For years the growers who farm those fields hardly ever had flooding. But in the last 4 years it’s flooded every year.”

Mike Sartor, Ind. Consultant, Sartor’s Ag Consulting, Clinton, Miss.: “There isn’t much going on. We sprayed a few fields last week for thrips. Cotton has made a pretty good turnaround after all the wet weather in the first part of May. It’s growing again, and we caught up on Roundup work. Our crop ranges from some that’s just coming up to our oldest that has started squaring.”

Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.: “We got 1.5” to 2.5” of rain. There was a lot of wind, and it laid cotton over some, but I haven’t seen a lot of damage. Everybody needed the rain. It was hot and dry for 10 days, and cotton in some sandy spots was getting a little wind burned. This rain will help kick everything off.

“We’ve done a little plantbug work in older cotton and are getting more lined up now, going with Trimax, Centric or Orthene, depending on whether we have aphids. We’ve got some 9th node cotton around Indianola and Greenwood and are getting ready to put out our Pix as soon as it dries up. We’ll add something for plantbugs, as needed.”

Claude Bonner, Ind. Consultant, Cotton Specialists of Ark, Inc., N. Little Rock, Ark.: “Since

Sunday we’ve gotten anywhere from .25” up to 1.25” of rain, and last week we picked up another inch or so. There was wind with this last system, and it left some corn flat on the ground. In the cotton we’re still treating a few thrips and also trying to get on top of weeds. The weather has delayed things. Some cotton is about to get past the window for over-the-top Roundup treatments, and we’re trying to decide what our options are where we can’t make a second application.”

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: “Some had to be replanted and hasn’t emerged, and we’ve got fields that are up to 12 nodes. There’s a real hodgepodge of development, but at least we have finished planting. What we’ve planted in the last 2-3 days is already up and looks good.

“We’ve been able to catch up on herbicide work in the last week. We’re just hoping the weed competition prior to the last treatment hasn’t hurt yield potential too badly.

“We found places today (Monday) where we think we will have to deal with aphids. I’ve watched them build in the last 2-3 weeks, especially in older cotton, and some of these populations are a little heavy to leave until next week. This is only in about 2-4% of the cotton I’m checking. We’re seeing very few plantbugs, even in older cotton. Most of it is squaring between the 4th and 7th nodes, depending on the variety and soil type. Retention is very good, which is another indication we don’t have any real pest pressure.”