

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

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Here is this week's **AgFax: Midsouth Cotton**, sponsored by the Midsouth staff of Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of **Curacron**® and **Karate**®.

OVERVIEW

Plantbugs are the pest of the week, and treatments are being made on a wider basis. Aphids are in the mix in parts of our coverage area. Mites are around, as well. A bollworm egg lay has started in the south Delta. These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.: "With all the weather-related delays, we've got a lot of weed control work to do. Hooded sprayers are running everywhere. On a little early cotton we had to fly on fertilizer because it was too wet to go by ground.

"Overall, cotton looks good. A little of our earliest cotton has too many plantbugs knocking off

squares, and we've been treating. Aphids are high in places, too, which is hard to explain with all the rain, and on a few acres we've had to take out both aphids and plantbugs."

Phillip McKibben, McKibben Ag Services, Mathiston, Miss.: "Our crop looks great, with most cotton at the 9th to 12th nodes. Plantbugs are spotty, and retention is 95% or better. Where we have plantbugs they're in small, isolated areas. We've just treated parts of fields and along edges.

"Aphids are building in some younger cotton, which concerns me more than it does in older fields. If cotton is over knee high then we probably can wait for the fungus. But some of our later planted cotton got waterlogged and stunted. We don't need anything else to hold it back."

Bill Brooks, Crockett Farmers Co-op, Alamo, Tenn.: "We are starting to find an occasional field with a treatable level of plantbugs. Trimax or Centric

have been the materials of choice. Cotton ranges from the 4th to the 10th true leaf, and it's squaring right on time, from the 5th node up."

Phil Gurley, Gurley's Agricultural Consulting Service, Kennett, Mo.: "Our growth regulator applications are starting this week. We're also making spotty plantbug treatments. Some are needed, while others are part of the automatic program. In a few places we're treating mites, and it looks like aphid populations are fixing to build on us.

"We're hoping to time things so we can clean up aphids and plantbugs with one trip. Cotton has really taken off in the last week. There are signs of nematodes, and we will make a couple of treatments."

Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: "Most of our cotton looks real good, and a lot has 8-10 first position squares. Our oldest is 5-7 days

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Bt Oversprays and Late-season Insect Control

Scouting for lepidopteran and other non-target insect pests is critical for successful transgenic cotton farming. Foliar over-sprays may be needed if flushes occur during the season.

Curacron® and **Karate**® with **Zeon Technology**™, used alone or tank mixed, are cost-effective options for effective control of lepidopteran and secondary cotton pests.

Turn to Syngenta Crop Protection for this and other innovative solutions, backed by one of the most knowledgeable Southern cotton teams in the industry.



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from first bloom. We're starting to put on a little Pix where plants are growing off well.

"Except for a few isolated places, plantbugs have been relatively light in Humphreys and Yazoo Counties. We did treat a 1,500-acre block last week. Two of our guys walking 400 yards apart came into 6-18% plantbugs on the same ridge. We treated a 40-acre block. Five days later we found nymphs and more adults on a wider basis, and we treated the whole block with Orthene.

"Aphids are light to moderate in a couple of fields, but we'll take care of them when we come back with Centric or Trimax for plantbugs. There are a couple of little patches of spider mites, and we may spot-treat some of those in the next week.

"A few stinkbugs are around. Yellowstriped armyworms are feeding in squares in places and knocking them off. They're not explosive, running up to 15% in spots. We're finding heavy plantbug numbers in MG IV beans and corn. They're thriving in podding soybeans. We've trimmed some adjoining cotton."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "Wet weather has put us behind a little on Pix. We've made some pinhead treatments for plantbugs and fleahoppers. Damage has been low. A few areas have 18-20% pinhead hits. Highest populations were 20-25% in spots. Cloudy weather has probably slowed movement, but when it gets sunny again, they'll be coming out of the woods – literally.

"We've made a few Vydate treatments for nematodes. So far, we've made one round of Trimax on 40 acres for aphids. I thought this humid weather

would slow them down, but they're on the verge of exploding in places. We're checking some hotspots 3 times a week."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "Aphids are really spotty, and they don't appear to be building any worse than a week ago. If they don't show up pretty soon they could be a non-factor for most of our acreage. Plantbugs continue to come on, though. It's the main pest for us right now. A good portion of the squaring acreage has been treated once and some twice, and we're still seeing plantbugs.

"There's been a flush of eggs in SE Arkansas, and we had a spike in the bollworm moth traps late last week and into the weekend. A few budworms are around, but this is mainly a bollworm event. Spider mites are still trying to pop up in a few spots and are a little more widespread this week."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.: "We still have aphids in most fields, and a lot of treatments were going out prior to Monday when it started raining. Plantbugs are present, too. A scattered eggclay has been in progress, and we suspect it's bollworms. It's probably nothing more than a bleedover from infestations in corn. We don't anticipate significant treatments.

"Where people are treating aphids and plantbugs, it's mainly with newer materials, and they're spraying off the tractor as they do directed herbicide work. Aphid populations haven't built to densities needed to trigger epizootics."

Robert Wells, CRC Ag Con-

sulting, LLC, Monticello, Ark.: "The crop is coming along really well. Some plantbug treatments are being made, and we're running Centric to clean up aphids. Cotton is squaring good and holding well.

"Most of our cotton is clean. We got 2 shots of Roundup over a good part of it. We're running it under the hoods now. In a field or two we've included Aim. A few fields definitely need cleaning up, mainly where we couldn't make a second application.

"Rain over the last few days will help. It was dry enough that a couple of growers were about to start watering cotton. Those guys generally don't want to see cotton hurt by lack of moisture. Some growers have already watered beans 2-3 times."

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: "Plantbugs are the main story this week. We're spraying them pretty heavily in a lot of areas. Pressure picked up. Aphids are building on a spotty basis. Mites are spotty, too, but maybe this rain will help reduce pressure. We've been squaring for a couple of weeks now. Throughout much of the Delta we're commonly running 8-10 nodes."

Scott Stewart, Extension Cotton Entomologist, Jackson, Tenn.: "We have a fair number of fields being treated for plantbugs. Some treatments are proactive ones. I'm getting a few calls about cutworms. Otherwise, that's about it. Cotton is doing well. We're getting some rain, although we don't really need it in places. Weeds are under control."