

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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Here is this week's **AgFax: Midsouth Cotton**, sponsored by **Syngenta Crop Protection**.

OVERVIEW

Louisiana continues to suffer from excessive rain. In his firm's weekly e-letter, consultant Roger Carter of Clayton, La., described the area in his part of the state that has suffered the most, and it included the town of Waterproof. Carter noted that it was ironic to include that name in a list of places getting too much rain.

Other parts of the Midsouth continue to receive rain. Plantbugs are being sprayed on a wider basis. Most aphid treatments are incidental to plantbugs. Mites are building in a number of areas. These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Lee Rogers, Rogers Entomological Service, Steele, Mo.: "We haven't had that many more plantbugs or fleahoppers than last week. We're not finding them in every field, just here and there at threshold. We've maybe treated

10% of our cotton. We've stripped a few edges for spider mites with Zephyr, Comite or Capture. Our older cotton has been squaring for about 3 weeks."

Ronnie Bibb, Jimmy Sanders Seed Co., Hollandale, Miss.: "We got a soaking rain last week across our area. We're beginning to layby now. There was a little flurry of plantbug activity, and a few aphids were around earlier. We used Trimax, Intruder or Centric for plantbugs, and that picked up aphids. I expect we'll see a bollworm moth flight sometime in the next 10 days as they come out of corn. A lot of silk started drying down last week. Most plantbugs we've had lately have probably come out of MG IV soybeans as blooms dried down."

Gary Wolfe, La-Ark Agricultural Consulting, Ida, La.: "Due to rain, we've had serious delays in making insecticide and herbicide applications. In places, it's been 30 days since we could do anything in some cotton. One field south of here produced 1,400 lbs/acre last year, but this month it's gotten 15" of rain in 14 days, and

there are areas in it that have died out.

"Plantbugs are coming out of scattered alfalfa fields, and there's a good deal of pigweed that's hosting them, too. Treatments are getting washed off cotton at times about as fast as we can make them.

"If the rain will stop, we'll be okay. The crop looks beautiful, but we need to clean up the middles. A lot of pigweed is the size of cotton. When they spray herbicides, some growers are running mud flaps to drag down pigweed so they can spray all over it.

"This is as tough as I've ever seen it. Luckily, with Bt cotton and eradication there aren't as many problems as we could have."

Mike Edwards, Edwards Entomological Services, Water Valley, Miss.: "Aphids have floated into our area. We've been using Trimax, Intruder and Centric. Plantbugs are spotty. We've been addressing those with aphid treatments, and all the products seem to be doing a good job on plantbugs. One grower asked today when I thought we would see

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Recommended Syngenta Cotton Herbicide Program

For the best protection against troublesome weeds, Syngenta recommends a herbicide program for Roundup Ready® cotton beginning with Sequence™ or Touchdown® applied at the two- to four-leaf cotton growth stage for control of broadleaf weeds and grasses.

Then at the five- to eight-leaf stage, apply Envoke® post over-the-top for control of troublesome weeds, such as morningglory spp., nutsedge and sicklepod.

Finish with Suprend™ as a post-directed through lay-by spray for control of many common weeds and grasses.



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the aphid fungus. I've found it as early as the Fourth of July, but typically it's around July 10.

"We're pretty wet. We got a localized 2" rain today (Monday) in Yalobusha County right where we were trying to put out insecticides and run hoods. Rain has really put us behind on herbicide work. Cotton still looks good. It's responded to the heat and what little sunshine we've had. I found our first bloom today in Grenada County."

Bob Griffin, Griffin Ag Consulting, Jonesboro, Ark.: "We're mostly on our second Pix application and even our third on a little. So far, we've applied 15-30 oz/acre.

"Mites are starting to build. None are at threshold. Plantbugs remain a big topic. We're treating with Centric or Vydate, and we're finding a few worms in non-Bt cotton. We've got zero aphids, which we attribute to making 2 applications of Centric at squaring. The first went on in the first week of squaring, then we made another 7-10 days later. Both went out with Pix. We used the same approach last year and never treated a single field for aphids."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.: "It continues to rain, with no sign of it letting up. People are asking what we think the impact will be, and we really don't have good historic experience with this much rain so early. In a lot of places it's been wet ever since planting. Old timers say you need a prolonged dry period early for plants to develop a good root system. Hopefully, the rain won't shut down completely. That would be detrimental.

"A lot of plantbug treatments are going out. No aphids are being treated, as such. They're present all over, but I'm not aware of any exploding situations. All the rain may be having an effect on them. Plantbug numbers really

jumped as corn started turning.

"What we need more than anything is a good run of dry weather. In all the crops you can find poorly drained areas where plants look bad or even dead."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "This wet weather has really been something else. Some cotton is standing in water in SE Arkansas today (Tuesday). A lot of plantbug treatments are going out. Centric and Vydate seem to be doing a good job, along with Vydate-Bidrin tankmixes. Tremendous numbers of plantbugs are building in wild hosts on field edges. If that vegetation ever dries up we'll see a big movement into cotton.

"Mites are still trying to move into fields all over the state. Zephyr has been used on some field edges, and Capture has been going out, too. Our main problem now is making directed applications in these wet conditions."

Chism Craig, Tennessee Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Jackson, Tenn.: "We've got a wooly mess in places. In some cases the first hooded shot with a herbicide will also be the layby application. Cotton is growing fast. Amounts aren't heavy, but showers have been frequent enough to keep people out of the field.

"We actually have a beautiful crop, other than weeds here and there, and we're trying to hold down growth. It's worth remembering that this time last year, things looked terrible. On the 4th of July in 2003 we were looking for pinhead squares. If we get sustained sunshine this year, half our cotton will be blooming by that date this year."

Carl Hayden, Chicot County Extension Agent, Lake Village, Ark.: "Our rainfall has been just about ideal this season. Corn has been watered a couple of times,

and maybe a little was irrigated a third time. But each time growers watered they got a shower. The same thing happened last week when growers watered a few MG IV soybeans.

"If we've got a problem, it's trying to work around showers and spray underneath the cotton. Most people had a pretty decent work period last week, but we got rain Monday night and more today (Tuesday)."

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist:

"Plantbugs are being treated. Some fields have been sprayed twice and a few have been treated 3 times. Populations vary. They're bad in some places and moderate in others. Rains have kept wild hosts going. So, instead of a big movement into cotton we're getting a steady trickle.

"A few applications are targeting aphids, but most are plantbug treatments, and newer materials are being used to pick up aphids. We're coming off a light egg lay all over the state and, historically, this would be a budworm flight."

Michael Boyd, Extension Entomology Specialist, Portageville, Mo.:

"Cotton is moving along pretty good. Due to planting and replanting, we've got a range of sizes. But, based on DD60s at mid June, it's 280 ahead of 2003 and 180 ahead of 2002. Wheat came off a couple of weeks early, and these conditions are really pushing all our crops.

"Mites seem to be hanging around. I saw fields today (Tuesday) where they were working on the edges, and a few treatments are being made. Plantbugs still seem to be building, and we need to keep an eye on them. Over the weekend a consultant sent me an email reporting a pretty good lay of saltmarsh caterpillars in some cotton, and he also was finding a few stinkbugs."