

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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Here is this week's **AgFax**, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of **Suprend**® herbicide.

OVERVIEW

Plantbugs and aphids are being treated somewhat more widely, but no overwhelming outbreaks were reported. When we closed out this issue Tuesday night rain had moved from east Texas into NW Louisiana and halfway across Arkansas.

A reminder: LSU AgCenter's Northeast Research Station Field Day (St. Joseph) is this Thursday starting at 8 a.m.

These reports were made Monday evening and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Allen McKnight, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.: "We're picking up a few plantbugs. Most of our cotton is just beginning to square. A few treatments have started, but nothing widespread. Cotton has finally started growing after all the rain and wet conditions. We've got it cleaned up now, and things

are finally falling into place."

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: "We've got one heck of a crop started, with strong squaring on several varieties. It continues to rain, and we're putting on a tremendous amount of Pix. In the last week my growers have gotten a half-inch to 6".

"We're spraying plantbugs and, in a few cases, still spraying thrips. A few fields have been sprayed 3-4 times for thrips. Insecticides don't seem as effective. But we're putting them out with Roundup, and spraying systems are set up to reduce drift. That leaves us with a particle size that's maybe not conducive to good insecticide activity.

"The effects of rootknot nematode are showing up. We've been applying Vydate with some degree of success. Where we treated the cotton greened up, and we saw a flush of growth.

"No worms of any sort are present. Plantbugs are running from threshold to 25%. We're also finding huge numbers of plantbugs when we sweep soybeans. Where we have cotton

planted next to early MG IVs beans there appears to be movement between the crops. Corn is loaded with them, but we aren't seeing movement to cotton yet.

"Roundup drift into non-Roundup Ready cotton is a problem. One of my growers just replanted 450 acres due to drift."

Dale Wells, Ind. Consultant, Cotton Services, Inc., Leachville, Ark.: "We could really use a rain. It's probably been 3 weeks since we've had significant showers. Rains have skirted us just to the south. We're still spraying some replanted cotton for thrips and are treating a few fields for plantbugs.

"We've got cotton in all stages, and some of that in the same field where we had erratic stands or replanted parts of the field. We don't have any June cotton, but we do have some May 31st cotton. In our early planted fields we've got plants on the 9th node with pretty good squares."

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Our cot-

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ton looks pretty good, but it's awfully wet. We've had a lot of rain. There's still a lot of over-the-top Roundup going on smaller cotton. Plantbugs are 6-8% in places."

Gerald Daniel, Ind. Consultant, Clinton, Miss.: "We're beginning to spray a little for plantbugs. So far, though, most plantbugs are staying in wild hosts. All the rain has kept that vegetation green and blooming. Once it dries out or quits blooming we should see movement. And they'll dive out of the corn, too, after pollination."

"Aphids are beginning to move into cotton. But in the last week I've also seen that little parasitic wasp. I haven't seen much worm damage in refuge acreage."

John "Kim" Kimbrough, Ind. Consultant, Pro Tech Ag, Lexington, Miss.: "Rainfall amounts have ranged from just about right to way too much. Our heaviest amounts were in Attala County. They already were struggling to get everything cleaned up, then got another inch Sunday. None of my clients have lost any cotton recently, but a few are struggling around problem spots. Where it's too wet, people are having trouble making Roundup applications in a timely manner. And even where they did treat, the grass is coming back with all this rain."

"We've sprayed a little for plantbugs this week. We're seeing them increasing in spots in older cotton. We found our first aphid colony today (Monday), but most fields are absolutely clean."

Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension Agent, Bastrop, La.: "With all the rain this spring we've got a mixed bag of development. Some fields have robust plants in places, while plants in low spots are struggling. There's some beautiful cotton out there, but when you pull up plants you

often find that they lack much of a root system. We're also behind on weed control due to rain. Glyphosate spraying, I'm afraid, is getting stretched past the 5th node in a few fields. Some Evoke is going out for nutsedge. We don't have much insect pressure. Most folks are banding Bidrin when they go across with herbicides."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "Cotton is beginning to fruit pretty much everywhere, and plantbug numbers are going up. There's activity all over the state, with more treatments in south Arkansas simply because cotton is more advanced down there. A few places are on their second application. Highest numbers I've seen have been 8 per 24 row feet."

"Bollworm moth trap counts rose a little last week in a few places, and we're picking up the occasional worm or egg. I doubt if any of this will reach treatable levels, but it does signal that the second generation probably will arrive around the 4th of July. Aphids continue to build. There were treatable levels at Cotton Plant this week."

Scott Stewart, Extension Cotton Entomologist, Jackson, Tenn.: "We're still battling thrips in a little of the late cotton and seeing plantbug number go up a bit in early fields. A few fields have enough to justify treating. Most older cotton is at 6-8 nodes."

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: "Cotton is squaring across most of the state. Plantbugs are being sprayed in spots. We're picking up both adults and immatures in places. Aphids are spotty."

"We've seen some damage from three-cornered alfalfa hoppers. They sometimes work on leaf petioles, but in this case they girdled

main stems. Damage was mainly where cotton had been injured by glyphosate drift, and that kept plants vulnerable longer."

Michael Boyd, Extension Entomology Specialist, Portageville, Mo.: "We should be about out of the thrips zone. Several farmers have treated fields as many as 3 times. We're starting to see a few plantbugs moving into cotton. Little outbreaks of spider mites and aphids are popping up. If any have been treated, it's on a very small percentage of the crop."

"I would be very concerned about plantbugs. We're finding heavy populations in wild hosts. It's just a matter of time before they move out."

Cecil Parker, AgriServices Ltd., Vidalia, La.: "Everybody is trying to get Roundup out over the top and make post-directed applications. Some Pix applications have started, too. Insects have been light up to now. We're seeing a few aphids, and they're being treated in spots. Plantbugs are mainly around corn. We're not doing a lot of treating."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.: "The crop continues to look pretty good. We're still getting rain, plenty of rain, but I'd rather have this extreme than the opposite situation. We still have aphids in most every field."

"Some plantbugs are present, too. Where treatments are being made it's mainly for aphids, with consideration given to plantbugs in the choice of materials. A week ago I thought more treatments would have been needed, but aphid and plantbug numbers haven't jumped. Treatments are being made here and there."

"We're picking up a slight egg lay, probably bollworms."