

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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Here is this week's **AgFax: Midsouth Cotton**, sponsored by the Midsouth Cotton Team of Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of Centric® insecticide.

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OVERVIEW

Warmer temperatures are helping perk up the crop across much of the region. Planting is still underway in areas where rain and cold weather delayed progress earlier. A good deal of replanting also has been necessary in some locations.

Moisture varies. Some areas could use a rain. Others are saturated. Parts of West Tennessee got 3" of rain in the last couple of days. Areas around Bastrop, La., received 2" today.

As we closed this issue Tuesday, rain was moving across north Louisiana, southeast Arkansas and central Mississippi.

Slugs remain a concern in some no-till fields.

These reports were made Monday evening and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Dale Wells, Ind. Consultant, Cotton Services, Inc., Leachville, Ark.: "We've wrapped up about 80% of our planting and will have to do a little replanting due to all the earlier rains. Some of our cotton is probably at first true leaf. We've had to fit our planting between a lot of rain. We're starting to pick up a few thrips, but Temik and Cruiser are still holding good."

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Some of the cotton looks really good. I'm recommending some treatments for thrips. These are in fields where grass and weeds came back after early burndown treatments, and there were a lot of thrips on the vegetation. The grower is just now making a Roundup application, and we pretty much know where those thrips will go next."

"We've got a little cotton

that's just being planted. So far, our growers don't appear to have much replanting ahead of them, but there is some going on around us."

John "Kim" Kimbrough, Ind. Consultant, Pro Tech Ag, Lexington, Miss.: "Some of our earliest cotton in this area is at second leaf, but we've also got fields where it's just coming up. What we planted since last Wednesday looks pretty good. It's either germinated or is beginning to crack. What we planted the week before is in trouble. A lot of it got 3" of rain and crusted over pretty good. In places those stands look fine, but in other cases they're questionable."

"We've got a few situations where we treated thrips in cotton that was planted 3 weeks ago without a seed treatment. The field had a pretty good amount of ryegrass to hold thrips at planting, so we decided to add something to the first shot of Roundup to take

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care of the situation.”

Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.: “We got 2” of rain this morning (Tuesday) south of Bastrop, but the north end of the parish is dry enough for work to continue. Pretty much all of our emerged cotton is in the seedling stage, maybe up to 2 true leaves. The first Roundup applications are going out by hooded sprayers. Those without infurrow insecticides are spraying for thrips.”

Sandy Stewart, Louisiana Extension Cotton Specialist, Alexandria, La.: “With warmer conditions, this crop has really improved. Some cotton is big enough now for its second shot of Roundup.

“We got a little rain across the state over the weekend, and showers are threatening now. I don’t think rain right now will hurt us. The showers and cold temperatures a couple of weeks ago did harm cotton that had been planted a few days before, and some of that has been replanted in the last day or so.”

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: “Practically all of the cotton has been planted. There’s been some replanting due to storms and such, but by the end of this week I think everything will wrap up. Cotton is growing extremely well. Some cotton planted last Friday was breaking through in 3 days.

“Our only problem right now is damage from slugs in no-till cotton. We’ll replant a significant acreage due to this. I’ve got fields in north Panola County and south Tallahatchie County – 50 miles apart – that were being eaten up by slugs.

“Insecticides haven’t done a thing. Angus Catchot (Mississippi Extension Entomologist) discovered that a no-till fertilizer study at Milan, Tenn., showed that ammonium sulfate provides some efficacy. That seems to be working. You’ve got to put it out as close to dark as possible. One farmer treated 400 acres last night (Monday) and is doing another 200 acres right away. We’re going with 100 to 200 lbs/acre.

“There’s a little more cost with ammonium sulfate, but we’re at least having an effect on slugs. If they get much worse, we would probably have to drop no-till production.”

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: “Thrips are being treated on a limited basis, mainly where cotton didn’t have a seed treatment or Temik. Otherwise, it’s relatively quiet. As of Saturday we were about 80% planted, with 55% of that up. I’ve only heard about a few cases of anyone replanting.”

Bobby Phipps, Missouri Extension Cotton Specialist, Portageville, Mo.: “What we planted early isn’t doing well. A little of that survived, but a good part has been replanted. We’re mainly going to have a May cotton crop this year. The area received more rain over the weekend, and people are planting now where it’s dry enough.”

Bill Robertson, Arkansas Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Little Rock, Ark.: “In the southern part of the state – in Ashley and Chicot Counties – they’ve had more days in the field and are essentially winding up planting. Statewide,

we’re maybe two-thirds planted. Decisions are being made about replanting in some areas. In northeast Arkansas it’s not unusual for farmers to have 100 to 200 acres to replant in fields where cotton in the crook got caught by heavy rainfall and cold weather.

“We’re getting better conditions now, with warmer temperatures. A break in the rain would help, too.”

Chism Craig, Tennessee Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Jackson, Tenn.: “We’re close to 50% planted statewide. An awful lot of cotton was planted last week and early this week. Some areas got big rains in the last few days. At Brownsville it rained up to 3”. The heavier rain amounts sure aren’t going to help growers who’ve conventionally tilled ground.”

Gerald Daniel, Ind. Consultant, Clinton, Miss.: “Our Louisiana growers are replanting a lot of cotton that they originally planted before the wet, cold weather developed. In the next day or so I expect to see growers wrapping up a lot of their planting, provided we don’t get more rain. Our growers in south Mississippi are waiting for the sandy soil to warm up. Conditions are improving. Some of the cotton planted last week came up in 4.5 to 5 days.

“I’ve got some 4-leaf Roundup Ready cotton, and we’re finishing up those fields. If we’re picking up thrips, even below threshold, we’re piggy-backing something for them. The cotton is already stressed, and we want to keep any more pressure off of it.”