

# AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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

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## OVERVIEW

In the last week, most of the region has received measurable rainfall – including enough to widely saturate soils, flood some fields and further delay planting and fieldwork.

Accumulations for May are running 20" or more in parts of south Louisiana, with much of that coming in the last week.

Elsewhere in the Midsouth, totals of 3-9" were reported for the last week in numerous places. No widespread insect problems turned up in our calls Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:** "Cotton slowed down quite a bit with all the wet, cool weather. It's grow-

ing a little faster now but is only at 2-3 true leaves. Roundup is taking a little longer to work, too. From May 9 to May 12, it rained up to 5" between Shreveport and Natchitoches.

"Some replanting is necessary, but nothing widespread. We're about 10 days behind where we would expect to be. So far, Temik activity is good."

**Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.:** "We've gotten 5.5" to 8" of rain, with some of the heavier amounts in areas we check around Belzoni. We've gotten at least 4" at Cleveland since last Thursday or Friday. Cotton isn't growing much, but the color is still good. Very little has stayed under water long. Most of the ditches are down enough for fields to drain.

"Once the weather breaks we will be spraying some thrips. Cutworms are almost nonexistent. We're finding a lot of adult plantbugs in the fields, at least 1%, and on some farms 3-4%. That seems early to be finding plantbugs. Due to the weather, it

will be another 10 days before we find a square."

**Sandy Stewart, Louisiana Extension Cotton Specialist, Alexandria, La.:** "We're trying to dry out. Rainfall totals have ranged from 4" to 15" in the last week, with the amounts getting heavier the farther south you go. The worst situations will be in cotton planted just prior to the rain. We expect that a good bit of that will have to be replanted.

"Farther north we've got some cotton at five to six leaves. That cotton will probably be okay. But there will be complicated situations in some fields where water didn't drain off. Cotton either didn't make a stand or it's stunted. That will affect management all season.

"One question being asked is how much nitrogen have we lost with all the rain? It's hard to say for sure, but I expect it's minimal in most cases.

"Some thrips had migrated into cotton from wheat before the rain. An additional shot of Orthene or

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something might be needed, although a lot of this cotton could soon grow out of the vulnerable stage.”

**Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.:** “The good spots, if you can call them that, only got about 8” of rain in the last six days. Other places are in the range 12 to 16 inches.

“We’re looking at fields now with spots that were flooded out. Up to now, seedling disease has been less than expected, but we haven’t been able to get into fields much yet to see how that’s changed.”

**Phillip McKibben, McKibben Ag Services, Mathiston, Miss.:** “Most of our cotton is at the 2-leaf stage and looks great. Thrips are light and cutworms are practically nonexistent. We’ve had adequate rain for now. I know it’s rained too much in other areas, but for us it’s been just about right.”

**Bill Brooks, Crockett Farmers Co-op, Alamo, Tenn.:** “It’s wet in the field today (Tuesday). We’ve had 3-4” of rain in the last week. About 50% of our cotton has been planted. We will probably do some replanting where we planted just ahead of the rain. Due to rutting last fall, we have a lot more land tilled up this year. We mainly started planting about May 5 and had several days of good running before rain moved into the area.

“With the way things are going, we’re seeing some switching now in varieties. Stoneville 5599 has fallen off a bit from what we expected, and there’s a little shying away from Fibermax 991. The shift is to DPL 451 or 444. We have a better supply of 444 than we had expected. It’s kind of a day to day thing. Someone is coming up with

20 bags here and there, and that’s helped us keep it moving to growers.”

**Bill Robertson, Arkansas Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Little Rock, Ark.:** “Most people got showers Monday morning and off and on during the afternoon. But there are places where it’s still relatively dry. Frank Groves, our research verification coordinator, said that they could possibly put a tractor in a verification field tomorrow (Wednesday) in Mississippi County. In Crittenden County they thought they could run a fertilizer rig pretty soon.

“The saving grace is that we haven’t had a lot of cool temperatures with this weather system. But we are getting calls about seedling diseases, even in some cases where they used a Cadillac treatment. What we mainly need now is dry weather.

“The next big push will be to make Roundup applications inside the window. There were fields with good burndown treatments ahead of the planter that are at 2 leaves now and haven’t had their first shot of Roundup. Some of these fields are getting wooly, and there are situations where they may only make one round over the top and will probably have to add Staple or something.

“A little March cotton in Desha County may be at fifth leaf, but we’re mostly at cotyledon to 2 leaves. Part of our crop is also still in the sack.”

**Robert Wells, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Monti-cello, Ark.:** “Generally speaking, we’ve had enough rain to hold us into mid June. Totals range from 2” up to 5” over the last 7-10 days. But some areas missed the last rain.

“I’ve got everything from cotyledon cotton to almost the fifth

leaf. My biggest variety this year looks like Stoneville 5599. It came out of the ground strongly, and the DPL 444 did, too. The DPL 555 tended to struggle in places, but maybe it will turn around and give us big yields like it did last year.”

**Phil Gurley, Gurley’s Agricultural Consulting Service, Kennett, Mo.:** “About 75% of our cotton has been planted at least once. We had already replanted some cotton, and with this last round of showers we’re not sure how it will fare.

“Whatever got planted about 14 days ago is coming out of the ground and doing okay. Some of the April cotton is still around, but part of that will be replanted. We’ve found a few thrips, and some guys will add Orthene to their Roundup. It’s already weathered looking, and we don’t want any more stress on it.

“We’ve got a field or two with aphids, and we’ll treat one of those fields. Most people in Pemiscot County won’t be in the field before the weekend.”

## PARSONS BENEFIT

Proceeds from this year’s Mississippi Agriculture Open Golf Tournament will help fund the Rick Parsons Endowed Scholarship at Mississippi State.

Parsons, a Mississippi cotton farmer who was active in industry efforts, died in February.

The 4-man scramble is August 13 at MSU. Fees are \$1,000 per team or \$150 for individual players. U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering will keynote the \$100 a plate, pre-tournament dinner August 12.

For registration, donation information or dinner tickets contact Jud Skelton at 662-325-0643 or [jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu).