

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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MAY 10, 2005

Here is this week's **AgFax: Midsouth Cotton** for 2005, sponsored by the **Midsouth Cotton Team of Syngenta Crop Protection**.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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OVERVIEW

Much of the Midsouth needs a rain to finish out planting or bring up seed that already are in the ground. Cool weather has taken a toll, and replanting is underway in a number of areas. These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Bob Griffin, Griffin Ag Consulting, Jonesboro, Ark.: "Sunday night and early Monday morning we got a half-inch to two inches of rain, and it was a Godsend. A lot of cotton was crusted over from rain the week before. Between cool tempera-

tures and dry weather, we've struggled to get a stand. I haven't seen a single field that came up in less than nine days. A lot of cotton also was planted in what should have been enough moisture, but the wind dried it up. We've got places with only a half stand, and we're hoping this rain will finish it out."

Gerald Daniel, Ind. Consultant, Clinton, Miss.: "Our Louisiana cotton missed the last couple of rains. We've got some cotton planted deep to hit moisture and some planted shallow that needs moisture now to come up. We've also got seed that probably won't be taken out of the bag until it rains again.

"Low humidity and the north wind have really dried things out. We've finally got good heat units, but lack of moisture is the limiting factor. It rained today (Monday), with up to an inch in places. But in other areas people are still planting. Of the acreage I check, maybe a third to three-quarters has been planted, but

only 15% is up."

John "Kim" Kimbrough, Ind. Consultant, Pro Tech Ag, Lexington, Miss.: "I think everybody is either waiting on what was planted last week to come up or wondering how much of the cotton will live that was planted in the last half of April. It looks like the situation won't be nearly as bad as expected. I haven't seen any rotten seed anywhere, regardless of planting date, even with the cold weather. But a lot of seed stayed in the ground 12 to 14 days before it showed anything.

"Whether the weather got cool enough to destroy the radical is something we don't know yet. The only pests we've seen are a few thrips on cotton that didn't have a protective treatment."

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Our cotton needs a rain. We got a good rain this morning

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(Monday) inside Cleveland, but north of town it didn't rain much at all. People were back in the fields after lunch. Some growers had already stopped planting due to lack of moisture."

Craig Massey, UAP-Midsouth, Brownsville, Tenn.: "We got rain in parts of West Tennessee Monday morning, but it was spotty. Parts of Fayette County only got one to three tenths, and people started running again after lunch. Wind has really been drying out beds. Some areas to the west – Shelby County and north Mississippi – did get more rain than this area.

"Cotton has been struggling. Fields planted three weeks ago have gone through two frosts, and I can find seedlings with black roots. I imagine we'll have to replant some. Cotton that was still in the ground during that colder period is just coming out, and it was planted two weeks ago Wednesday. It's a little yellow and weak looking but probably will be okay."

Carl Hayden, Chicot County Extension Agent, Lake Village, Ark.: "Cotton looks pretty sick. We've had a few warm days, and that's helped, but there still are problems with stands, and replanting is underway. We need a shower. Some places a week ago Friday got three inches of rain, but other areas missed significant amounts. Where it rained heavily the ground got packed, and we need a shower there just to get the plants up."

Chism Craig, Tennessee Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Jackson, Tenn.: "We got light showers across parts of West Tennessee Monday but

hardly enough in many areas to even slow people down. Between 30% and 40% of the cotton has been planted in some areas. People planted through the weekend and then stopped for the rain. But a lot of folks were back in the field again Monday after the showers played out."

Bobby Phipps, Missouri Extension Cotton Specialist, Portageville, Mo.: "Probably 80-85% of our planting is done. Conditions have been terrific the last few days. It was a little wet after it rained Sunday night and Monday morning, but we're planting again in a lot of areas. Things were so dry that the soil soaked up the rain. We do have some early planted stuff that looks questionable."

Sandy Stewart, Louisiana Extension Cotton Specialist, Alexandria, La.: "Most of central Louisiana has been 'snake bit' in terms of rain. A few storms popped up Monday night, but they were isolated. We have heat units now but need moisture. Where we had moisture, the cotton is growing rapidly. But in parts of central Louisiana people have stopped planting because it's too dry. Where cotton is actively growing it's time to make herbicide applications, and a lot of glyphosate and tankmix treatments are starting now."

Tom Barber, Mississippi Extension Cotton Specialist: "It's dry in a lot of places. We're still fighting a crusting problem from the last big rains. We'll have to replant in spots due to crusting and chilling injuries. More rotary hoes are running in the Delta than I've seen in a while. The problem with rotary hoes now is that we don't have

as much of a margin for error. When we were planting a lot more seed per foot it didn't matter as much if you pulled some up. You lost some plants but also saved enough for an adequate stand. But with the tight populations now, you can't afford to lose as many."

Bill Robertson, Arkansas Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Little Rock, Ark.: "Slow: that's the best word to describe this crop. Central and south Arkansas have missed a number of chances for rain lately, and people are questioning whether to replant some cotton. They got hard packing rains in combination with cold temperatures, then it turned dry again.

"It is surprising at how good some cotton looks even where it took the better part of three weeks to emerge. I haven't seen any real seedling disease in the fields I've been asked to check. But there will be replanting in certain areas. In some cases the little plants that haven't emerged simply don't have enough 'push' left in them.

"The cost of replanting, though, is so much now that you're better off in many cases keeping the stand you've got."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "We haven't had a rain since the first week of April, if then. Cool weather has kept the effects of the dry conditions from being too pronounced. But now we've got warmer temperatures and 10 mph winds, and the lack of rain is beginning to show. Lack of moisture has kept cotton from taking up enough Temik. We've got one-leaf cotton with six pounds of Temik that will have to be treated for thrips."