

AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

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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 our coverage area continues to need rain. Warmer temperatures wouldn't hurt, either. A few more pest treatments are being made.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Bill Robertson, Arkansas Extension Agronomist-Cotton: "Cotton is starting to come around. For the most part everybody needs a rain. A few places got rain over the weekend but we got hail, too. I've heard reports of hail damage in north-east Arkansas, into the Missouri Bootheel, in Lee County and also

in Desha County.

"Some cotton is struggling and needs warmer temperatures. Thrips, so far, aren't a wide-spread factor. Glyphosate is going out over the top. Some folks delayed a little because cotton was already struggling, and they wanted it to stabilize a bit."

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.:

"We've got cotton putting on its fourth true leaf, but there's still some unplanted acreage because it's too dry. Areas range from having very adequate moisture to being severely dry.

"The little showers we've gotten lately, combined with warmer temperatures, brought out a tremendous weed flush. At least now we can kill them. But people will have to move fast. If they want to make 2 glyphosate applications and it gets hot, cotton could grow past the fifth-leaf stage within 10 days.

"We're spraying thrips. These are cases where people didn't get enough rain for adequate uptake

of Temik. Or, it took 2 weeks for cotton to emerge, the cotton is 2 weeks old now, and the Temik is gone."

Bobby Phipps, Missouri Extension Cotton Specialist:

"Our weather has been terrific the last week. Cotton planting is virtually complete. The very early planted cotton started off slow but did not rot. Seed in some cases took 21 days to emerge. I had never seen cotton so slow to emerge. The recent planted crop is coming up at a normal speed. It looks like we are off to a great start. I do not remember when the crop looked so good at this point."

Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.:

"We're dry. It only rained about 2 tenths over the weekend. Seedling cotton is just sitting there. Some seed is still in the ground waiting for a rain. Most planting has stopped now until we do get moisture. We

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Control your weeds from start to finish

For optimum control of troublesome weeds in Roundup Ready® (RR™) cotton, Syngenta recommends a herbicide program beginning with **Sequence®** applied at the two-to four-leaf cotton growth stage.

For control of morningglory spp., nutsedge, sicklepod and other weeds, apply **Envoke®** post over-the-top after the fifth leaf stage.

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



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don't have ideal conditions yet. It's supposed to go down to 52 tonight (Monday). It got up to 90 degrees a couple of days last week, then dropped again."

Gary Wolfe, La-Ark Agricultural Consulting, Ida, La.: "We've had to water up cotton in places. Seed were planted in moisture but the wind dried us out. The problem has mainly been in clay spots. Some cotton is coming up that was planted 3 weeks ago. Quadris really worked."

"Overall, this crop still has managed an excellent start. We just need rain. Temik and seed treatments have pretty much held up. We got a light rain at just the right time for the Temik to start working."

Sandy Stewart, Louisiana Extension Cotton Specialist, Alexandria, La.: "We need rain. Some dry planting is still taking place. The crop is a mixed bag. Of our anticipated acreage, 80% to 85% has been planted and is up to a stand. With the rest of it we've got seed in the ground waiting for rain or seed in the bag waiting for rain. We're approaching the point that growers will have to decide whether to stick with full-season varieties like DPL 555 or ST 5599 or shift to a shorter-season variety. Data shows that after May 20 those varieties aren't as competitive."

"We typically have enough heat units to mature out 555 or 5599, even when planted in late May. However, that cotton would be vulnerable to fall rains and hurricanes. You could keep some late-planted acreage in those varieties. But from a risk-management standpoint a producer should shift more planting

into earlier maturing varieties if delays persist."

Chism Craig, Tennessee Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Jackson, Tenn.: "Overall, we are not in bad shape in terms of moisture. Parts of the state caught 1 to 1.25 inches over the weekend, although other areas got only a few tenths. We're close to finishing. Our oldest cotton, which was planted April 18-20, is just approaching second true leaf. Cotton planted May 5-10 when there was good moisture came up pretty quickly. It's a little drier now and cooling off. The low this morning (Monday) was 49 in Jackson. But we've had fairly warm conditions during the day. At 5:30 p.m. the soil temperature was 75 at 2 inches."

Tom Barber, Mississippi Extension Cotton Specialist: "The front that came through over the weekend looked promising, but some locations only got 1-2 tenths or nothing at all. Planting is 90% to 95% completed. People stopped planting in some places before the weekend due to lack of moisture. A lot of cotton is approaching 4 leaves now. Those at 2 leaves will have to make glyphosate treatments right now if they expect to make 2 applications. Those that haven't sprayed yet and are at 4 leaves have to make it now."

David Hydrick, Hydrick's Crop Consulting, Inc., Jonesboro, Ark.: "This is the best stand of cotton we've ever had. The soil was dry when it got so cold, then it rained and the soil crusted over. We ran rotary hoes to get it up, then it rained 2-3 tenths, and everything came right up. We've been treating for

thrips where growers didn't have any protection and are just now beginning to treat thrips behind Temik or Cruiser."

"This is the worst cutworm season I've seen, and I'm in an area that always has bad cutworm. Where we treated with Ammo behind the planter we've had to come back with a second shot. They're especially bad behind the levee. Some cotton that popped up this week already has one-foot gaps in places. I've also used Zephyr for spider mites on 1-2 leaf cotton along the river."

"My biggest problem all season has been marestalk, especially in no-till fields. We've had a lot of reemergence. In several fields that weren't treated with Clarity we had to come back with Ignite, and we've cleaned up some big messes with it."

Herbert Jones Jr., Ind. Consultant, Leland, Miss.: "Washington County got little or no rain over the weekend. Maybe 1-2 tenths fell in places. We're running pivots now. Virtually all my growers are in the same shape. Out of every 1,000 acres of cotton there's 100 acres with a questionable or thin stand, mainly in low places, and they'll just about have to do some spot replanting. The other 900 acres don't look too bad. What cotton mainly needs now is warm weather and moisture."

"Thrips are coming on pretty good. Seed treatments have been holding but cotton just hasn't grown like it should, and chemicals have degraded. Cotton is old enough to be at 4-5 true leaves, but a lot is only at 2. We've also treated spider mites. Trouble spots developed in some 2-leaf cotton."