

# AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

Owen Taylor, Editor ([owen@agfax.com](mailto:owen@agfax.com), 888-327-6329)

**MAY 24, 2005**

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

Owen Taylor, Editor  
[owen@agfax.com](mailto:owen@agfax.com) 888-327-6329

## OVERVIEW

The Midsouth needs rain, and fast. Irrigation was underway in numerous locations to even out stands. As we closed this issue Tuesday night, thunderstorms had moved from western Arkansas into NE Louisiana and central Mississippi.

Thrips are being treated on a wider basis. Spider mites are being sprayed, as well, and aphids had reached treatable levels in a few spots in SE Arkansas.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.:** "A few pivots were turned on over the weekend. Friday night we did

catch showers up and down Highway 7 from Itta Bena down to Belzoni and Silver City. Amounts ranged from 4 tenths to 1.5 inches. Warmer weather has been helping. In the last 7-10 days cotton jumped ahead, despite the dry weather.

"We are cleaning up some thrips, mostly piggybacking with Roundup. Cotton ranges from cotyledon to a little just beginning to square."

**Mike Sartor, Ind. Consultant, Sartor's Ag Consulting, Clinton, Miss.:** "Overall, the cotton that's up looks good. We started treating thrips last week. Thrips aren't tearing it up, but you can tell that systemics have played out. Some growers started spraying Roundup before the first true leaf fully unfolded. We're going early on first treatment to ensure we can make two applications on time. We need rain, particularly in Yazoo County, but wouldn't turn one down in Hinds or Warren Counties, either."

**Sandy Stewart, Louisiana**

**Extension Cotton Specialist, Alexandria, La.:** "We caught a narrow band of showers last weekend, with totals of 1-2 inches, and that will get a little cotton up in Avoyelles Parish. But that's been about all the rain we've gotten. We're still very dry.

"Thrips are an issue. Just about everything up to a stand has received at least one treatment, and some has had a second shot. Seed treatments and Temik are wearing down just as thrips are moving out of wheat and weeds."

**Chism Craig, Tennessee Extension Agronomist-Cotton, Jackson, Tenn.:** "Rain would make a lot of people happy. We're not suffering in cotton like the corn and soybean folks are, but we still have some seed laying in dry dirt. Cotton looks pretty good. Bidrin and Orthene are going out with some Roundup applications, but we're not hearing about huge, widespread thrips problems."

**Bill Robertson, Arkansas Extension Agronomist-Cot-**

Continued on next page

## Sequence® Offers Excellent Grass Control

**Sequence®** provides effective knockdown control of existing weeds and residual control of troublesome annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.

- With two proven modes of action, **Sequence** offers growers an outstanding resistance-management tool.
- Growers and researchers agree: **Sequence** is one of the most effective, convenient new options for controlling troublesome weeds.

Turn to Syngenta Crop Protection for this and other innovative solutions, backed by one of the most knowledgeable Southern cotton teams in the industry.



[syngentacropprotection.com](http://syngentacropprotection.com)

©2005 Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Greensboro, N.C. 27419-8300. Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using these products. Sequence® and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

**ton, Little Rock, Ark.:** "In some cases growers were running water last week to even up stands. Whether anyone would come out ahead replanting this year is questionable, even with free seed. Moisture has been too marginal to get a stand that might be better than what was already out there.

"We do have some thin stands. One consultant said only 20% of his acreage had over 2 plants per foot of row, with most running 1.3 to 1.5. We need rain right now. We usually don't think about watering pre-squaring cotton, but if things don't turn around soon we'll make one irrigation on a lot of fields before first square."

**Tom Barber, Mississippi Extension Cotton Specialist:** "It's going to get serious if rain doesn't come soon. Some cotton planted in cool conditions also still looks rough. I've seen pivots running in places, mainly to get part of the later-planted cotton up. We still have moisture down in the soil, but not where we need it. Some of this cotton is stressed to the max."

**Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist:** "A lot of cotton that had a seed treatment or systemic already has been treated twice for thrips, and now we're seeing secondary pests. Aphids are building, particularly in SE Arkansas, and some fields have been treated. Spider mites are building in a number of places, and treatments are being made. Some thrips treatments haven't been all we would like. I'm not calling them failures, but people are having to go back pretty quickly with another treatment."

**Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist:** "We're spraying thrips on a lot of acres across the state. Seed treatments are wearing out, and some numbers are high. Some cotton

near Clarksdale has been treated 3 times. Spider mites aren't epidemic, but they are bad in places. Pressure is heavy on some 2- and 4-leaf cotton in the Delta.

"I was in about 1,000 acres of cotton today (Monday) in western Washington County that was part of two different farming operations. Part of it was treated 7 days ago with Comite, while the other part hadn't been sprayed. The only thing separating the 2 fields was a turnrow, and the difference was like night and day.

"Sprayed cotton still had mites but the treatment was definitely holding. Cotton that wasn't sprayed had enough mites that they were killing plants in places."

**Robert Wells, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Monticello, Ark.:**

"Cotton looks better now. We're coming back with the second Roundup application on a lot of it and including something for thrips. We haven't had high thrips numbers, overall, but are finding some pretty good spots. I saw a couple of aphids Monday, but nothing to amount to anything. Two days ago I picked up a few eggs near Bayou Bartholomew and saw a budworm moth nearby.

"We're watering some cotton that just came up. The soil is dry, and plants weren't growing. A few fields are being watered to gain an even stand. We caught a little shower on part of our crop Friday, and that will hold us a few days. But if it doesn't rain in the next 7-10 days I expect to see polypipe being rolled out."

**Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.:**

"Our biggest cotton is at 7-8 nodes, but it's mostly in the 3-5 leaf range. On a lot of the crop we're in the last over-the-top Roundup application. With the dry weather we've treated quite a bit of cotton

for thrips and have gotten reasonably good control. We're seeing a little aphid increase and a little mite activity, but nothing we have to treat. The main thing we need is rain."

**Bert Falkner, Ind. Consultant, Land Service, Aberdeen, Miss.:**

"I'm in Noxubee County today (Tuesday), which for a hill county has a fair amount of irrigation, and every pivot is running. On lighter soils the corn is probably waist tall and starting to twist with all this wind.

"I don't want to see the dry weather continue, but it's at least forcing cotton to put down decent roots. In the last 2 years we've had wet springs, and root development wasn't as full as we'd like.

"Thrips are around but not heavy. We're seeing a certain amount of damage that looks like thrips but actually has more to do with the cold, wet conditions in the last half of April and early May. Thrips were present, but not in numbers to make cotton look like it does. Cotton planted since then looks much better.

"Generally, our plant populations are adequate. One thing we've noticed is a good deal of seed clumping with smaller-seeded varieties. Planters were calibrated by the book, and it didn't matter if equipment was red or green. With these smaller seeds the planters were dropping too many in spots."

**Phil Gurley, Gurley's Agricultural Consulting Service, Kennett, Mo.:**

"Our cotton ranges from cotyledon to fifth leaf. We badly need rain. We treated some thrips last week and quite a few more this week. We've also sprayed several fields for spider mites. I was scouting for thrips 3 weeks ago and began finding mites in one field on just about every plant I examined."