

AgFax

Midsouth Cotton

Where your crop comes first.

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Here is this week's *AgFax: Midsouth Cotton*, sponsored by the **Midsouth Cotton Team of Syngenta Crop Protection**. To request a subscription, go to agfax.com/subs.

OVERVIEW

Thunderstorms since last Friday have greatly benefited a wide part of the Midsouth. Some locations received little or nothing, but we're hearing reports of an inch or more across much of our coverage area, with totals of two to three inches not uncommon.

Rains helped with spider mites in some areas, but there appear to be cases where treatments still may be necessary this week.

Plant bug and aphid treatments are being made. Plant

bugs may have slacked off a bit in some areas over the last week.

You may be receiving this week's report on a slightly delayed basis. Heavy thunderstorms late Monday afternoon moved through central Mississippi, blew down trees in our part of Rankin County, disrupted electrical and phone service and knocked out the high-speed internet lines that we use to transmit our reports. Like everyone else, though, we were glad to get the rain.

CROP REPORTS

Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.: "Cotton is fruiting pretty heavily, and a lot of it has not grown off real fast due to dry conditions. That's been especially the case where cotton followed cotton compared to where it followed corn. This could be an indication of nematode damage, which may be a bigger factor this year with the dry conditions we've had. We're treating plantbugs and aphids. So far, we have not had problems controlling aphids with Intruder, Trimax or Centric like they've encountered in other parts of the state."

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: "We still have spider mites in the south Delta. We've gotten pretty good rains in places, and that should help with mites some. The thing worrying some of us now, especially in the Delta, are trap numbers that are still running fairly high, and a large percentage of them have been budworm moths."

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We haven't been able to flush moths in the field but are finding eggs."

David Hydrick, Hydrick's Crop Consulting, Inc., Jonesboro, Ark.: "We got 4.5 to 5.5 inches of rain over the weekend across a wide area. A little of our early cotton started blooming late last week, but most of our crop is around 10 leaves. We're going through with our first shot of Roundup underneath the hood and also applying Pix and something for plant bugs. We've got spider mites and have been cleaning those up on a lot of acres, too. In one 200-acre field, we planned to treat mites in about 90 acres, but the rain delayed us, and we ended up having to spray all 200.

"Cotton really responded to the rain. It looks like it's grown five inches in the last two days. The rain has kept us out of the field, though. Up until last Friday, we felt like we were running ahead with spraying and other work, but now we're definitely behind. We still have places where we're waiting for enough cotton to emerge to consider it a stand, and we'll soon determine if we'll keep what comes up after the rain or plant beans there next week. In a small percentage of the fields in this area – probably less than 1% -- plant populations are no more than 20,000 per acre."

John "Kim" Kimbrough, Ind. Consultant, Pro Tech Ag, Lexington, Miss.: "In our cotton in the Oxford area, we're getting a few aphids. They're not bad yet. Plant bugs are moving some. In this area, aphids are building a bit, depending on the age of the cotton. The cotton here is mostly at six to seven leaves with a little pushing eight. In the area around Oxford, there's a good deal of variability from one field to another and even in the same field. Planting was spread out due to weather, either too wet or too dry, and then there were places with partial stands or slow emergence. I've seen cotton up there in the last few days that ranges from cotyledon to 11 leaves. We had some of that here, too. It took a month for part of my own cotton to finally emerge and fill in some of the gaps.

"The dry weather probably has moved plant bugs into cotton because it hasn't wilted but the weeds around it are drying down. We haven't sprayed plant bugs yet. What we're finding is still less than half a threshold for this time of the year."

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Plant bug numbers are pretty low right now. I swept on one farm yesterday (Monday) and had to hunt hard to find a single plant bug behind two applications of Centric. We didn't get the results we needed early with Orthene or Bidrin and had to go with Centric. We're still extremely dry on the west side of Bolivar County. The riverside simply didn't get any rain. The Cleveland and Shelby areas on the east side picked up one to 1.25 inches."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist,

Winnsboro, La.: "Rainfall amounts since Friday have varied from nothing to 10 inches in spots. Most areas got at least some, and it sounds like many growers picked up as much as three inches. Central parts of the state received rain Friday and Saturday, then northeast Louisiana picked up really good amounts Monday.

"Plant bug numbers seem to be going down for the second week in a row. Treatments are still being made but not nearly as many applications are going out this week. Mites continue to crop up. They're still not the issue we're hearing about in other states, and they mainly have built in parishes near the Mississippi River. We're seeing them in spots across fields, not anything uniform or field-wide. Those areas received rain Monday, but we don't know yet what effect it had on populations. Worms have kind of dropped off. A few fields were treated last week but hardly any this week. One odd thing was an instance of fall armyworms turning up in prebloom cotton in Avoyelles Parish. I've never heard of them building this early, and it's probably just a case of the worms building on something else in or near the field, then moving into cotton."

Scott Stewart, Extension Cotton Entomologist, Jackson, Tenn.: "We've got our share of plant bugs right now, although they don't seem to be everywhere. One person wasn't finding any and asked where they were. Another called to say plant bugs were the worst he's ever seen, with 2X to 3X thresholds in older cotton. We're past worrying about thrips now, and people are trying to do weed control work."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We got around 1.5 inches of rain in the Lonoke-Pulaski area, and that seems to have wiped out the spider mites for a while. We were monitoring several fields, and they zeroed after the weekend rains. In south Arkansas we're beginning to kick up a few bollworm moths here and there. The egg lay is light at this point, but we may be on the front end of a small flight. Damage from what probably were granulated cutworms seems to be light, and worm survival was low, as well. The worms we collected all seemed to have been parasitized. Plant bugs have been extremely scattered this year up to this point. Some fields have been treated three times, while other fields are blooming now and have not been sprayed for plant bugs this season. Which way a field goes tends to be influenced by how close it is to some source, whether its another crop or wild hosts."

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