

MiteFax SJV Cotton

Where your crop comes first.

Owen Taylor, Editor
owen@agfax.com ■ 888-327-6329

MAY 5, 2007

Here is this week's **MiteFax**, sponsored by the **California Cotton Team of Syngenta Crop Protection**.

Subscriptions can be requested at agfax.com/subs.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Best regards,
Owen Taylor, Editor

OVERVIEW

Cold conditions over the last week have continued to delay crop development.

Seedling disease is evident on a wide basis, and more replanting is being reported.

Some thrip applications are being made, and miticides have been going out in the south valley. Herbicide applications also are being made.

CROP REPORTS

Steve Wright, Extension Farm Advisor, Tulare County: "For the first week of May, we have a good overall crop. But we are seeing more fields suffering

due to cold weather. Seedling disease isn't hard to find, both thielaviopsis and rhizoctonia. Some weed situations are showing up, and I'm seeing quite a bit of thrip applications being made. We're back in the 60s and 70s for highs, and cotton isn't growing real fast.

"There hasn't been a lot of replanting. Most growers had a couple of fields where they had to do some, but others have gotten by without any replanting. Some plantings – particularly those after the first couple of days of April – have been on the ragged edge with that 2-week cool spell. Most of the early cotton looks pretty good."

Steve Lenander, Technicare, Bakersfield: "The weather has cooled considerably with the minor rain events this week. Given the slow rate of growth, we've seen an increased amount of seedling disease. Some fields have gone from plant densities of 50,000 to 60,000 when we counted 2 to 3 weeks ago to bad areas this week with densities down to 20,000. Parts of our crop, though, still look strong, with cotton up to 6 true leaves. But, we can find seedling disease to an extent in every field we have. Last week, I saw my first square of the season on node 5.

"Miticide sprays are underway. Mites started getting a little angry south of Bakersfield a week ago. I wish cotton had more size on it, but mites were heavy enough that treatments were necessary. Some nightshade and morningglory treatments are being made, too."

Rick Sandberg, PCA, Agri-Consultants, Cantua
(Next Page)

Trust Sequence and Dual Magnum for Early-season Weed Control

Start your cotton herbicide program off right with **Sequence®** and **Dual Magnum®** herbicides. **Sequence** provides effective knockdown control of existing weeds plus residual control of troublesome annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.

Dual Magnum delivers long-lasting control of most annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds with unbeatable application flexibility.

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

Visit cotton.farmassist.com
or syngentacropprotection.com for more information.



Creek: “We’ve gotten rain but not enough to stop working. Our biggest cotton is at 3 to 4 nodes. The cool weather has slowed plants in the last few weeks after a real nice start. Some of the later stuff came up well, but we don’t know how it will end up. We’re starting to see thrips and are finding a little mite, but nothing to treat here yet. We’ll reevaluate thrips in a couple of fields next week. If they’re worse, we may treat. It really depends on what the weather does. It’s 69 right now (Friday), and the wind is blowing, so we don’t have the right conditions for cotton to outgrow thrips pressure. The forecast keeps saying it will warm into the 80s, but it hasn’t happened yet. Some nightshade applications are being made.

“Most places have pretty good stands. A few fields were decapped, then it rained and we got a little crusting. We’re seeing some seedling disease. It’s not in any great numbers, but we’re certainly finding more than we did before it turned into February again. We’re still ahead of last year, although it’s nothing like 2004 when the crop came out of the blocks and just kept going. I still feel good about how cotton looks, overall.”

Chris Morgner, PCA, Agri-Valley Consulting, Merced: “Cotton and other crops have kind of slowed down with these cooler conditions. We’re in second true leaf and are mostly putting on herbicides. We haven’t seen much, if any, mite. The majority of our cotton had Temik. One field was just planted last week, and that’s it. We had a little damping off but nothing that has caused any big concerns.”

Bob Hutmacher, Extension Cotton Specialist: “Weird weather continues. I’ve been set to say that maybe the worst of the seedling disease is behind us, but...

“It’s raining a little in Visalia (Friday) and cloudy,

and temperatures were probably in the mid 40s at some locations last night. So, I’m expecting to see more seedling disease issues as we go into next week.

“Where I’ve visited fields and also talked with growers about replanting decisions, it appears that about 75% of the time they’re coming back with cotton. The other 25% of the time, they’re planting another crop. Overall, I don’t expect a massive amount of replanting, and there have been limited numbers of fields that were entirely replanted. In most cases, I think, growers are replanting spots or portions, say 15 acres out of a 60-acre field.

“Until weather settles into a more normal pattern, I don’t expect to see much growth. Many of our fields are in very good shape, and cotton came out of the ground well. But heat units are important in the month of May. The Pima certainly benefits from at least moderately warm weather in May. I think everyone still has this odd feeling that it’s getting late, but that’s only because so many started early.

“With the weather we’ve had, I’m not sure people are going to be able to hold off on first irrigation like they would prefer. There definitely are locations where we will start earlier than normal, and it would help if smaller amounts of water could be used. There’s still deeper moisture, but we’re running into shortages in the upper soil. If the roots already are beat up and less efficient, that further complicates the moisture situation.”

MiteFax: SJV Cotton is distributed at no charge to individuals who grow cotton in California or who work in related production occupations. It is published by AgFax Media/Looking South Communications, Owen Taylor, Editor, 142 Westlake Drive, Brandon, MS 39047. Telephone: 601-992-9488. Fax: 601-992-3503. By email: owen@agfax.com. Subscriptions can be requested at: <http://agfax.com/subs>. ©2006 Looking South Communications.