

THE TURN ROW



JULY
31
2020

HELP IS ON THE WAY

By: Jeff Thompson & David Mullins

The latest crop conditions report released (7/27) shows half the U.S. cotton crop rated good to excellent. This is a slight improvement from a week ago, but well behind last year at this time when almost two-thirds of the crop fell into this category. Most of the Southeast has benefitted greatly from a summertime pattern of random showers. However, there are some isolated areas which have been left dry. Here the crop is suffering under intense heat. In the Southwest, conditions have improved somewhat with temperatures finally moderating and rain a little more prevalent. As a result, the cotton in this area rated poor to very poor has declined from 41 percent a few weeks ago to 23 percent in the last report. Nonetheless, with cotton in full bloom, its demand for water is at its peak. As always, the fate of this crop largely depends on weather conditions in August and September.

DICAMBA CONTROL OF PALMER AMARANTH

In several locations this year we've experienced less than satisfactory control of Palmer Amaranth where Dicamba was used. Some of this can be attributed to application timing, inadequate rates, and weather conditions. However, it reminds me of when we first detected glyphosate resistance and such factors were blamed initially, but as more and more fields experienced poor control, resistance was deemed the problem. The accompanying picture of a field after two applications of Dicamba made 14 days apart. As you can see there were a host of escapes.

Glufosinate (Liberty) has been the go-to herbicide for control of escapes gaining best results when applied within three or four days of the initial treatment. Obviously, such a short interval poses a problem when managing several hundred acres, but its effectiveness significantly declines after seven days. Also, to enhance control, consider increasing the rate to 40 ounces per acre, spray mid-day if



Weed escapes after Dicamba



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possible, and use a minimum of 15 gallons of water. The fact this will likely become a more widespread problem next year is good reason to incorporate into your herbicide program soil applied preemergent residual herbicides, timely applications of Liberty after Dicamba treatments, and the use of more nonselective herbicides under hooded sprayers.

BOLLWORM CONTROL

As corn dries down this time of year, the bollworm moth flight into cotton gets underway. It has been documented the bollworm has developed some tolerance to the 2 gene Bt protein or Bollgard II. This is noteworthy since one of the most popular cotton varieties planted, DP 1646 is a Bollgard II variety. Therefore, monitoring for bollworm escapes is very important. Dr. Ron Smith and Dr. Scott Graham, Auburn University entomologists, suggest using a modified whole plant inspection when doing so. Look carefully in the terminal, squares, blooms, and bolls from the top five nodes of the plant for eggs, larvae, or signs of feeding damage. The treatment threshold for



Top .5 nodes

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escape worms is five larvae per 100 plants in fields previously treated with an insecticide. In untreated fields, where beneficial insects are plentiful the threshold can be stretched to 10 larvae per 100 plants. The following link contains a brief video whereby they go into more detail on scouting for escaped bollworms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXhLLqDNhAE>

STINKBUG CONTROL

From now until harvest, the major insect pest of concern in cotton will be the stinkbug. Their feeding can result in both yield and fiber quality losses. Stinkbugs feed on bolls, preferably those quarter-sized, 10 to 14-day-old, soft bolls. The preferred scouting method for this insect is like that of the boll weevil in the past. The insect itself is so skittish that it's easier to scout for feeding damage. But rather than pulling squares in the case of the boll weevil, we select young bolls instead. The following link contains another brief video on the what to look for when scouting for stinkbugs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ECZNS6KkRA>

HEALS ACT

This past week, the Senate introduced their latest stimulus and Coronavirus assistance bill entitled the HEALS Act. This is their response to the House-passed HEROES Act, both of which come on the

heels of the CARES Act. I often wonder who thinks up these acronyms and what does he or she get paid? Nevertheless, the Senate proposal appropriates \$20.45 billion and provides greater discretion to the Secretary of Agriculture in creating financial assistance programs for losses due to COVID-19 to include the 2020 crop impacted by virus related demand destruction. It would also entitle processors such as textile mills and domestic cotton users to relief. When combined with the \$14 billion CCC was granted in the CARES Act, approximately \$34 billion will be available to the USDA to design COVID-19 relief packages for agriculture. This monetary assistance approaches near \$50 billion when you consider the \$16 billion in the CFAP of which half has been used. The task of hammering out the differences between the Senate and House remain and likely will extend into August. Nevertheless, it appears help is on the way in some form.

MYSTERY SEED

As if in a sci-fi movie, many residences across the U.S. are receiving mysterious packages of seeds in the mail often labelled as jewelry. Since this may be an invasive species which could cause economic and

environmental harm, we urge you to take the following precautions. Most importantly, DO NOT PLANT these seeds. Also, do not dispose of them because they could accidentally enter the environment. USDA is asking you to keep them in their unopened sealed packaging and call the USDA-APHIS department at 1-800-877-3835 for further instructions.

AQCA NEWS

The accountants are nearing completion of the 2019 pool audit. Upon finishing their work, the final settlement will be announced and paid to pool members.

I hope everyone is now receiving our weekly market review. This brief description of the previous week's market activity and thoughts on what lies ahead is sent by e mail every Monday morning. If you are not receiving a copy, please contact us with an e-mail address so you can be added to our list.

Until next time,

Jeff Thompson
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