

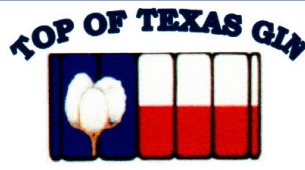


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## Cotton Insights Newsletter

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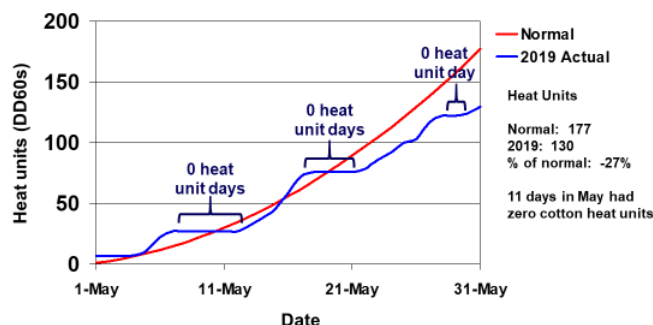
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### June 6, 2019

### Current Situation

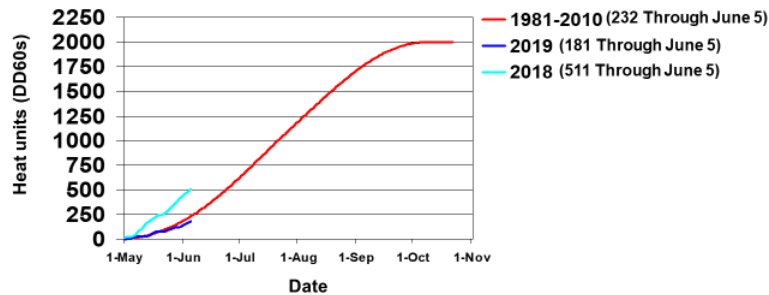
The 2019 season continues to challenge producers. Final planting dates for insurance purposes have come and gone, and we are now in the late planting period. Incessant, almost nightly thunderstorm events keep rolling in, covering much of the area. These storms continue to drop from low to high rainfall amounts on fields. In addition, cooler than normal temperatures for the month of May resulted in slow crop growth. For the entire month of May (very cool), 11 days had ZERO cotton heat units and this resulted in a total of only 130 heat units, compared to the 30-year normal of 177. Everyone tends to remember what happened last year, and for comparison, May 2018 - which was the exact opposite (very hot) had 511 heat units. See the graphs below for perspective on this.

### Amarillo 30-Yr Normal (1981-2010) Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation vs. May 2019 Actual



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## Amarillo 30-Yr Normal (1981-2010) vs. 2019 Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation



### Management Concerns

Normal to above normal temperatures are needed to jump start the cotton in the area. Most of the fields, especially north of Amarillo, have been saturated with rainfall and some have been “ragged up” by high winds and hail. Cotton is a crop, as we say, that doesn’t like to have “wet feet.” Waterlogged conditions tend to cause a lot of issues. Early May planted cotton has struggled to maintain its root health and I am hearing reports of some significant seedling disease pressure in some of those fields. For more on this see the May 15<sup>th</sup> newsletter.

- Later, mid-May planted cotton that I have seen has managed to hold its own with respect to root health (see photos below).
- Some varieties, regardless of seed lot, have exhibited poor emergence and growth under the environmental conditions we have experienced this year.
- Growers should be on point with respect to thrips control. There is a lot of wheat drying down in many areas, and the spring weed growth in ditches can also harbor this pest. The May 20<sup>th</sup> newsletter covers thrips issues. With the poor growth thus far exhibited, thrips will only exacerbate poor growth. This pest pressure coupled with less than desirable seedling health will result in a slower growth rate than normal. This is something we don’t need with the poor environmental conditions experienced thus far in 2019.
- In clean-till fields, protect the emerged plants by running rotary hoes or sand fighters as soon as possible to prevent further environmental damage (“sand blasting”) to the seedlings if high wind events continue.
- Watch for weed emergence. Hopefully the residual herbicides applied preplant and behind the planter are holding. For more on weed control thoughts see the May 17<sup>th</sup> newsletter.

## Wildorado Enlist Trial – Gruhlkey Farm

This Enlist technology trial was planted no-till on May 20<sup>th</sup> into wheat stubble and included six PhytoGen varieties. Late last week this trial was emerging, and got hit by the Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> round of thunderstorms. This field escaped the major cell that went further north and east. Although it has experienced cool temperatures since planting and the storm event, the residue protected the seedlings and it is in very good condition at this time (see photos below).



Further inspection of the field shows that plants are still emerging and root health is still excellent. Average plant stand is about 47,000/acre arising from a seed drop rate of 56,000/acre. This indicates about 85% of the seed dropped on May 20<sup>th</sup> was emerged by June 4<sup>th</sup>. There has been about 2-3% terminal loss in the field, and 30-40% of the cotyledons were damaged. Most cotyledon damage was shredding, although about 10% of the plants had lost one cotyledon. A few plants were still emerging and weed control is excellent. Given some seasonal weather and open skies to jumpstart growth, this field should be fine.



