

# Southwest Cotton Field Report

A monthly cotton report provided by Americot, Inc. sales representatives.

**August, 2010**

**Lamesa south (including Dawson, Martin, Midland and Howard counties and the Rolling Plains).** The cotton crop is coming right along. It's winding down pretty quickly so there isn't much for growers to be watching for other than a few pests such as lygus, stink bugs or spider mites. We still have cotton that will require some plant growth regulator (PGR) applications. Obviously the heavy boll load is going to be kind of drawing down this cotton but it will probably still need some PGR on the later planted cotton.

Growers should also manage their water carefully and not cut it off too early. We are anywhere from cutout to seven or eight nodes above white flower. So there is still a pretty wide variance of the crop stage. There also were some areas that received too much rain where it was waterlogged that are still trying to come on. However, the cotton crop in general looks really good.

If you have questions about your Americot/NexGen varieties and how they're growing off, call **Dane Higgins** at 432.528.0039.

**Lubbock to the southwest (including Hockley, Cochran, Terry, Yoakum, Gaines and Andrews counties).** Overall I am real optimistic on what we are going to end up with at the end of this season. If we can get some rains in mid to late August, then it is really going to be a great cotton crop. Growers are trying to keep up with their irrigation. They are also making some late season PGR applications, especially growers who are dealing with some later planted cotton. But overall I think everything is pretty well in check.

We have been seeing a few stink bugs, plant bugs and lygus out in the field along with a few spider mites but overall they haven't gotten out of hand. We definitely need to watch them closely because those pests can damage bolls. Spider mites can defoliate the cotton early so we definitely need to pay close attention to them, especially in this hot and dry weather. Spider mites tend to thrive in that environment.

Overall I really think we have a great cotton crop going. If we could get some rain it would be great but we will just have to wait and see what Mother Nature has in store for us.

If you have questions about your Americot/NexGen varieties and how they're growing off, call **Doug Fairbanks** at 806.790.1601.

**The Triangle Area (from Plainview to Muleshoe to Hereford).** The cotton in the Triangle Area is looking great. Of course, most of the cotton is irrigated so the main thing that growers are doing right now is managing their water. Most of the cotton in this area is at cutout or pass cutout so it is time to keep the water on and make sure it holds as much as it can.

Hail storms have damaged some cotton, but we have been ok for the most part. If growers can irrigate, the most important thing they can do now is prevent the crop from stressing from lack of moisture. Some cotton is beginning to throw off a little fruit but that is expected. It can't hold everything. Growers need to make sure that you don't stress the cotton to the point that it throws off fruit and starts to grow again. We have been fortunate enough to get a few spotty showers on our dryland acres. Most of our dryland cotton is going to be good.

There has been some verticillium wilt, but I have not seen any bad situations. NG 3348 B2RF is a real trooper as far as tolerating verticillium wilt and yielding with some disease present. Additionally, it has been a low insect year for my area. I have heard of some growers with bollworm issues on some Roundup Ready Flex cotton (no Bollgard II). A few have sprayed for bollworms. I also haven't heard of any bad aphid populations this season. Overall, our insect issues have been minimal.

If you have questions about your Americot/NexGen varieties and how they're growing off, call **Gary Sanders** at 806.777.4534.

**East of Lubbock, and the Texas panhandle, as well as western and central Kansas, Oklahoma and the Rolling Plains.** In Crosby County, east of Lubbock, the cotton crop looks real good. Growers have been spraying for aphids and have been keeping their eye on bollworms. I don't think there has been a big egg lay that I know of so we are just keeping our eye on worms. There has been a lot of spraying for aphids and growers are keeping good control on them.

A lot of the cotton in my territory seems to be ahead of schedule. In about two to three weeks, a lot of this cotton whether it be irrigated or dryland will be blooming at the top of the plant and the crop will be set.

Some of the cotton that was planted late seems like it suffered a little from the monsoonal rains that delayed the later planted crops. Growers are trying to catch up now and the later planted cotton is trying to rebound. But the earlier planted cotton looks real good.

Northeast of the Panhandle and north of Amarillo the cotton crop seems to be ahead of schedule. A lot of that cotton will be blooming out by the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Most of the cotton in that area is already 3 to 5 nodes above white bloom.

Kansas and Oklahoma had big rains that produced a huge cotton stalk. So growers are applying a lot of PGR on the crop to control the plant height. But the heat and the boll load are probably settling down the PGR applications. The Kansas cotton looks real good and is on schedule to be an early crop.

If you have questions about your Americot/NexGen varieties and how they're growing off, call **Jerry Montgomery** at 806.577.8011.

**Lubbock, Lynn, Garza, Haskell, Knox and Stonewall counties.** All the cotton is looking very good right now. Growers have to irrigate again because we had all that early rain

and the cotton didn't really root down like it normally would. There is a lot of moisture down in the ground but the cotton didn't root down far enough to get it and so everybody is having to water again.

All of my growers are pretty much finished fertilizing. All of the cotton is approaching cut out. Most of it is between one and three nodes above white flower. Everything is loading really well. We have some fields where there are going to be some very good yields. We have had so many heat units the last thirty days that this cotton has really matured a little quicker than it normally would have.

We had a little aphid flare-up several weeks ago and it actually looked like it was going to be bad. But the lady bugs got in there and smoked them and took care of the aphids.

For the remainder of the month, growers just need to keep the water on their cotton so it doesn't get hot and stressed and throw off a bunch of fruit. That is the big worry you see during this time of the season. So the main thing is just keeping the crop as wet as they can.

If you have questions about your Americot/NexGen varieties and how they're growing off, call **Jeff Armes** at 806-632-1383.