

Southwest Cotton Field Report

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

June, 2010

The Triangle Area (from Plainview to Muleshoe to Hereford). Cotton is growing rapidly, primarily because of the great subsoil moisture and the recent hot weather. I've seen a lot of cotton approaching at least the 4 true leaf stage, and some 5 leaf cotton. Most of my area plants early to avoid early frost in the fall. We did not have many heat units early but our cotton had very good emergence and early vigor. Our old standbys, NG 3348 B2RF and NG 3410 RF, were pros in getting up and taking off. One customer planted a test plot of 16 varieties and said NG 3410 RF shot out of the ground first.

I've already seen a few pivots starting so some growers must be concerned that all this heat is causing moisture stress. We've had several days of 100 degree weather coupled with a southeast humid wind that keeps humidity up while drying out the soil.

I've seen very few incidences of thrips and our cotton is growing so fast that hopefully it will outgrow the pest. Over the next few days and weeks, growers need to watch weed control and time their first glyphosate application. And watch for potential moisture stress.

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

Lamesa south (including Dawson, Martin, Midland and Howard counties and the Rolling Plains). Our oldest cotton is at the 6th true leaf stage, and we still have some dryland growers who are getting to the tail-end of planting, but we're 95 percent planted. This is definitely one of the best starts in my 15 years in this area. We've had timely moisture, heat units to make the crop go, excellent subsoil moisture and very little replant.

On early planted irrigated cotton, growers need to watch the pinhead, match head square for timing their plant growth regulator (PGR) applications. We've had some thrips infestation so growers are adding something like Orthene with their PGR, especially where they did not put down Temik earlier. Growers also need to watch for plant bugs and fleahoppers over the next few weeks. Additionally, in fields with known nematode problems, growers need to scout for stunted plants that have knots on the roots; if necessary, they need to use something like Vydate to control nematodes.

Our new varieties, such as NG 4010 B2RF and NG 4012 B2RF have shot out of the ground. They have had very good emergence. I probably have about 20 growers who have planted either NG 4010 B2RF or NG 4012 B2RF, and every grower that I have followed up with have been extremely pleased with emergence and overall plant health with those two varieties. In fact, one field of NG 4010 B2RF beat a competing variety out of the ground by at least five days.

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

East of Lubbock, and the Texas panhandle, as well as western and central Kansas, Oklahoma and the Rolling Plains. The cotton crop is in very good shape. Most of the cotton has been planted and it has shown really good emergence. There have been a few places where our growers had to replant. For example, the northern panhandle of Texas planted cotton this year under less than ideal soil temperatures. They had some cold weather conditions and some hard packing rain that caused them to replant some of their cotton. I am happy to report that all NexGen varieties showed excellent emergence and vigor under these conditions.

I have heard that the Rolling Plains would welcome some much needed rain. Their dryland cotton hasn't been planted due to dryness. This has also affected Central Oklahoma as

well. So if Mother Nature can lend a hand and provide that area with a little rain, they will be in good shape. The West Texas area is in excellent shape in terms of all cotton planted. There were very few replants. It has showed excellent emergence and is moving right along.

For the rest of June we need to stay on top of thrips migrating from wheat into cotton. We have a good wheat crop across the country from all the rains and it is being harvested right now, so it's a matter of time before thrips move into cotton. Most of those cotton growers planted cotton seed with treatments such as Cruiser and are now spraying their cotton with products such as Orthene.

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. Most cotton is growing steadily and has reached the two leaf stage. There are few dry pockets but hopefully they will catch a good rain over the next ten days. But for the most part the cotton is up and looking very good. It is rooted down into the good early moisture we had. Our varieties have shown good emergence and excellent seedling vigor. Growers from Lubbock to Knox City have said that our seedling vigor is stronger than other competing varieties.

Most of my growers plant AM 1532 B2RF and NG 3348 B2RF and have said that both varieties blew out of the ground with a vengeance. It is just a combination of good early seedling vigor and good seed quality. Also, we are getting good heat units. Every day we are getting up to 95 degrees and over the next five to six days we should reach over 100 degrees. This cotton is about to be growing through itself.

For the remainder of June growers need to keep their eyes on thrips, which have just recently started showing their ugly heads. Right now we are harvesting wheat and so the thrips have come out looking for a new home. Everybody has put down Temik with their seed or they

are using some sort of insecticide seed treatment, such as Aeris, Cruiser or Avicta. We don't expect other insect problems for the rest of the month.

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

Lubbock to the southwest (including Hockley, Cochran, Terry, Yoakum, Gaines and Andrews counties). We went through a good bit of heat for this early in the season; the temperature reached 106 degrees in most of my territory and even higher in some areas over the first weekend in June. However, the cotton is growing extremely well; it handled the heat real well, partly because of all the subsoil moisture. We have a beautiful crop going.

Early season insect pests, including thrips, have caused some spraying. However the targeted pest today seems to be nematodes, which are building up in fields that have a nematode history. Temik is starting to play out so growers are applying Vydate over the top.

In my territory, we're anywhere from the one to six true leaf stage. Cotton is really growing; some already has the first square. We had some excellent emergence, especially from the NexGen varieties. For example, some of our new Bollgard II/Roundup Ready Flex varieties, NG 4010 B2RF and NG 4012 B2RF, have come out of the blocks really well and are growing extremely well.

In June, early season fleahoppers, plant bugs and nematodes are the three pests we need to watch closely. We've had a lot of buildup of early season weeds that have been flowering. So when they start drying down on the roadsides and countryside, we'll have a heavy population of fleahoppers and plantbugs migrating into our cotton.

Additionally, pay attention to internode length to determine timely PGR applications. Some growers will start applying PGRs later this week or the first of next week. We use low-rate, multiple shots on small cotton to control its growth. The early low-rate applications help

you on the backside so you don't have to apply a 24- or 32-ounce shot late to slow down the cotton.

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

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