



Current Crop and Insect Situation:

General Situation

We are starting to see some fields with fully emerged cotton and some that are just breaking the soil surface. Some growers are asking about stands and what to do. If you see roots with big shank or swollen areas or dead growth tips then cold chilling has occurred. That cotton was probably planted on May 2nd, 3rd, or 4th. See my earlier news letter from May 6th on the effects of night time low temperatures (Figure 2). In addition if you see dying plants after they have emerged I included information on the seedling diseases at emergence. Cold chilling makes the plant more vulnerable to disease so a higher incidence of disease may occur on cotton planted before and after the dates above. The plant can go ahead and grow but will have a root system with less than desirable growth.

Decisions on replant should be based on fields that have seedlings with no cold chilling. If your field has escaped that type of damage but had a low emergence due to crusting or other physical issues it is generally acceptable to have a stand of only 2 plants per foot of row on 40 inch plantings. With current weather forecast, plantings after May 15 should be fine as no night time temperature below 60 degrees are predicted. Also, historical temperature data show average lows do not occur beyond this date.

I am not trying to be pessimistic but optimistic in providing the information above in helping you identify good stands that are worth keeping.

What is about to happen in Cotton?

Thrips:

With some fields varying from emergence, cotyledon or true leaf stage thrips activity needs to be monitored on a regular basis. Heavy thrips migrations are currently occurring as bordering crops and/or weeds dry down and mature. Prolonged migration can occur for fields that are next to wheat, pastures and weedy areas, so keep a careful watch on those plants. Fields that still fit these criteria and that were treated with an at-plant systemic or seed treated insecticide may show signs that the residual is wearing off. These fields need to be monitored closely as heavy infestations may destroy terminal buds resulting in stunted growth. Treatment is advised when the number of thrips averages 1 or more per true-leaf present. **Be very careful to watch those fields which are struggling.** Orthene® or Bidrin® would be product of choice and will tank mix well with Glyphosate. **Now, be careful when scouting as thrips damage and wind damage are often confused with each other. Also remember, that insecticidal control is rarely justified once plants reach the 5-7 true leaf stage, or when plants begin to square.**



Figure 1. Thrips injured cotton

Figure 2. Minimum daily temperatures Altus Irrigation Research Station for May 2010.

Day	Degree Fahrenheit
1	51
2	44
3	43
4	43
5	56
6	54
7	50
8	45
9	54
10	57
11	47

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