

Floyd County Ag Newsletter



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Cotton Weed Management on the Texas Southern High Plains

A new document has been posted to the Floyd County Agriculture blog web site at www.floydcountyag.wordpress.com which discusses updated weed management practices and recommendations.

The document is a collaboration between Peter Dotray, Professor and Extension Weed Specialist, and Wayne Keeling, Systems Agronomist and Weed Scientist. The purpose of this document is to list and describe common herbicide inputs for cotton weed management on the Texas Southern High Plains. This document will be a “work in progress” for the entire 2015 growing season and will be updated with common input times during the growing

season. Any updates will be posted to the blog web site. Herbicide application “timing” will be the main headings in this document. An exhausted list of herbicide inputs is not the goal of this document, but the focus will be on commonly used herbicides in this region. Please use these recommendations as a guide, and consult the herbicide labels (<http://www.cdms.net/>) for complete details regarding rates, rotational restrictions, use of adjuvants, recommended carrier volumes and spray tip selections, etc.

Although the majority of this document will be information extracted from herbicide labels, additional comments that fine-tune label recommendations will be added. If

you have questions, please contact the Floyd County Extension Office, Peter Dotray or Wayne Keeling.

In addition, four weed management videos were created in 2015 that focus on weed management of Palmer amaranth. Video title and links are listed below:

1. History and Biology of Palmer amaranth <http://youtu.be/QbA45TgJEgg>
2. Weed Control prior to Emergence <http://youtu.be/OeD0p1YPQg>
3. Control of Weeds after Emergence <http://youtu.be/cFgZbPD8Dhs>
4. New Technologies for Weed Management <http://youtu.be/22kDZkVZ4IE>

A NEW DOCUMENT HAS BEEN POSTED TO THE FLOYD COUNTY AGRICULTURE BLOG WEB SITE AT WWW.FLOYDCOUNTYAG.WORDPRESS.COM WHICH DISCUSSES UPDATED WEED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Cotton Variety Selection



By: Mark Kelley, Extension Cotton Agronomist

Cotton variety selection is one of the most important, if not the most important, decisions that producers on the Texas High Plains and in the Texas Panhandle make each year. Luckily, many excellent

varieties are available and are suited for this region. However, not all varieties fit the diverse field conditions and management practices observed in the region. Variety characteristics, such as maturity (or earliness), plant growth habit, fruiting habit, disease or nematode toler-

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“COTTON VARIETY SELECTION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT, IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT, DECISIONS THAT PRODUCERS ON THE TEXAS HIGH PLAINS AND IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE MAKE EACH YEAR. “

Cotton Variety Selection (Continued)

ance, technology traits, and storm tolerance, are just a few of the key considerations, in addition to yield potential and fiber quality.

Selecting varieties for individual fields rather than planting one variety to an entire farm is highly recommended. Field based factors to consider when making decisions for a variety include, soil type, irrigation capacity and method (if irrigated), fertility level, disease or nematode presence and identity, weed spectrum and herbicide resistance, and tillage practices. To assist with variety selection, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research, as well as local crop consultants and seed company personnel, conduct many cotton variety tests annually. These trials/ demonstrations are wide-

spread and are conducted under variable field and environmental conditions as well as varying management practices. Results from multiple locations (and years if possible) should be considered, especially when adopting a new variety. When planting a variety for the first time, plant a limited number of acres in order to “learn” the response of the variety to field and management practices.

For information on past and recent variety trials conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, producers may visit the Lubbock Center website at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu> or <http://cotton.tamu.edu>. If more information is needed or if questions about particular

variety trial results arise, producers are welcome to call me at 806-781-6572 (mob), or 806-746-6101 (ofc). Below are links to the most recent variety reports from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research:

<http://24benefi37g1f8w8w3ohxam1.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2015/03/2014-Sytems-Agronomic-and-Economic-Evaluation-of-Cotton-Varieties-Final-Report.pdf>

<http://24benefi37g1f8w8w3ohxam1.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2015/03/2014-AG-CARES-Report.pdf>

<http://24benefi37g1f8w8w3ohxam1.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2015/02/Cotton-book-2014online1.pdf>



Earth-Kind® Plant Selector

In Texas there are hundreds of plants to choose from for use in home and commercial landscapes. Trying to find just the right plant for a specific location can be challenging. Ensuring that your selection is also well adapted to the environment makes this decision even harder.

The Earth-Kind Plant Selector, part of the Texas Urban Landscape Guide can be an extremely useful tool for this difficult task. This searchable database provides users with

the opportunity to select plant materials based on factors such as height, width, flower color, sun or shade, bloom period, leaf character, as well as several other matching criteria.

Each plant in the database is rated for heat tolerance, drought tolerance, pest tolerance, soil requirement and fertility requirement based on region. The Earth-Kind Index value (which ranges from 1 – 10) is a measurement based on all 5 of these

resource efficiency categories. The higher the number, the more resource efficient a plant is in that region. Plants with an Earth-Kind Index value of 8 or higher are considered to be extremely resource efficient and are generally heat tolerant, drought tolerant, pest tolerant, with minimal soil or fertility requirements for the selected region.

Here is the link to the tool:

<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plantselector/>



2015/16 Cotton Fundamentals, Outlook, and Caveats

By: John Robinson, Professor and Extension Economist

The regular benchmarks of cotton acreage and production are well underway. USDA released their long-run projections in December, which gave us a glimpse of their tentative view of the 2015/16 cotton supply and demand picture. The implication of USDA's 2015/16 projection is for stable ending stocks, year over year, which further implies that cotton prices should continue to trade in a similar range as during 2014/15. My personal outlook reaches the same neutral conclusion. Since this original USDA projection, we have had five major developments.

First, the National Cotton Council released the results of their grower planting intentions survey. The survey measures cotton growers planting intentions as of the mid-December to mid-January time period. The NCC report indicates a notable 14.6% year-over-year reduction in U.S. planted cotton acreage, down to 9.43 million acres.

The **second development** was the boost in U.S. cotton exports in the old crop balance sheet, as projected in USDA's February WASDE re-

port. Relative to the January projections, 2014/15 U.S. cotton exports were raised a notable 700,000 bales to 10.7 million. This has two effects on the new crop outlook. First, it supports the idea of having somewhat higher exports in the 2015 crop balance sheet. Second, it lowered the carry-in to the new crop balance sheet by 500,000 bales. These developments reinforce the conclusion of the USDA projection above that there will be little change in ending stocks for the new crop marketing year, relative to the previous year.

The **third development** was the refinement in USDA's projected 2015/16 U.S. cotton balance sheet, which they published on February 19. Here, they again forecast a neutral ending stocks/price scenario, meaning that they see little change in ending stocks between the '15 crop versus the '14 crop, and hence little reason for a different price range.

The **fourth development** would be the ongoing wet weather across much of the central and eastern Cotton Belt states. For example, as of mid-March wet conditions were still affecting planting of various crops in Texas. This weather may have prevented some intended corn plantings (although, if true, this may

not be reflected until the June Planted Acreage report by USDA). Weekly national planting progress reflects the delays due to wet conditions. In the Midwest and MidSouth this may translate into more soybeans in place of intended corn. Meanwhile, the **most recent development** was USDA's Prospective Plantings report, which reinforced the NCC forecast of a large cut (13%, says USDA) in U.S. planted cotton acreage, compared to 2014.

The implications of the most recent acreage snapshots still imply a neutral stocks outcome, but it raises the possibility of a tighter situation if there are any problems with the 2015 crop. Given the current state of ample moisture, I am still leaning towards a little lower than average abandonment (say, 10%) and a little above average yields (820 lbs/ac). That plus the likely carry-in would give us almost 19 million bales of supply, which will likely produce the same level of ending stocks for the 2015 crop that we will realize for the 2014 crop.

For more information about Cotton marketing, including technical analysis, influences, crop insurance and marketing strategies, please visit Dr. Robinson's web site at <http://agrilife.org/cottonmarketing/>



“THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MOST RECENT ACREAGE SNAPSHOTS STILL IMPLY A NEUTRAL STOCKS OUTCOME, BUT IT RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF A TIGHTER SITUATION IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE 2015 CROP.”

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We're on the web!

floyd-tx.tamu.edu



Meeting Invites/Updates Via Text and Email

If you would like to receive meeting announcements, updates and reminders please contact the Floyd County Extension Office with your email address as well as a cell phone number. We will be sure to send out all events through multiple platforms, however, we have found that text messages are sometimes the quickest and simplest way to inform local area producers of what meetings are coming up in Extension. Our office phone # is (806) 983-4912, email at Floyd-tx@tamu.edu, OR send a text message to Cristen Brooks' cell phone at (806) 317-2877 that you would like to enroll in meeting reminders.

New Floyd County Agriculture Blog

To stay up to date on the latest agriculture information from the Floyd County Extension Office please book mark the new blog web site!

www.floydcountyag.wordpress.com