

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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tara.johnson@ag.tamu.edu
THANK YOU

St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Annual
meeting

April 4, 2017

St. Lawrence Parrish Hall

ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT
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GENERAL SITUATION

This country could use a good general rain awful bad right now. As the wheat turns blue, the wind continues to blow, and folks get fields ready to plant in the upcoming weeks, our moisture is going away. Several of you have had water going for a while, others are just starting up. Still some are going to hold out a while longer. Whatever game plan, stick to it and see it through.

WHEAT

Wheat is coming on quickly with the warm temperatures we have had. What was jointing or just pushing a flag leaf out 10-14 days ago, is now pushing a head out. With most of this crop getting ready to head out and flower, we need that rain now. There are a couple of mornings in the long term forecast where temperatures could get close to freezing. We will have to keep our eyes on it and our fingers crossed.

COTTON

As it warms up our minds turn to cotton planting. A couple of things to keep in mind as we go into this year: Let the soil warm up and make sure you have a favorable forecast, let the crop establish itself before turning on your water, and if you have a history of or had problems last season with seedling disease or early season insects, use treated seed and/or varieties with resistance or tolerance.

Soil temperatures are a huge factor in getting a quick, uniform stand. We are currently running about 57 degrees at 2". Fine for corn, but way too cool for cotton. Make sure that the 8" temperature is at least 65 degrees, preferably 68 degrees with a favorable forecast for the next 5-7 days. You also want to hold off on irrigating until you can row your field. Prior to this and you can "cold shock" your crop which can stunt it, set it back, and damage the young roots. If moisture is needed either pre-water or hold off until you have a stand. Finally, if you consistently suffer from seedling disease or early season insect pests, consider going with a seed treatment. You can generally get about 30 days control from these products and they will allow the crop to get established early. For issues such as vert and blight, many varieties show higher levels of tolerance than others. The 2016 results for both trials are at Lubbock.tamu.edu.

Bt

As we prepare to start planting corn and cotton in the next few weeks to months, I have been thinking about past worm pressure, increased grains, 2 new Bt technologies in cotton this year and another relatively new one. Last year Dr. Pat Porter Extension Entomologist, Lubbock co-wrote the [Handy Bt Trait Table](#). This publication helps producers better understand the traits that they are purchasing and just as important, whether they are even needed. For instance, due to our rotation and lack of corn acres I have rarely seen rootworm adults. Even if we were to have a large number of adults in a field, 3 years of cotton would starve them out. I have also not seen any corn borer to this point. If acceptable varieties can be found without having to purchase these traits, that is a cost savings to you. Also, Dr. David Kerns, our new IPM Coordinator and Extension Entomologist, College Station, and Suhas Vyavhare, Extension Entomologist, Lubbock wrote a publication titled [Bt Cotton](#). This publication discusses the different traits in Bt Cotton, the insects they control, and their overall effectiveness. It also talks about thresholds that should be used if worms are present in Bt Cotton.

RESULT DEMONSTRATION

Result Demonstration handbooks are complete and are available at both gins and at my office. It can also be found online at glasscock.agrilife.org.

I am currently working on putting trials together for the 2017 growing season. If anyone wants to conduct a trial with me give me a call.