



# Arkansas Cotton Update

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Tom Barber - Editor

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## **Preemergence Herbicides in Short Supply (Ken Smith – Weed Specialist)**

It seems that Cotoran, Direx, and Caparol are in short supply. I have been told that all inventories are currently in dealer warehouses and when this is exhausted, there will be no additional product until June.

It is hard to believe that we have talked all winter about the necessity of preemergence herbicides in cotton, built rebate programs to reward using residual herbicides, and attended company meetings where they developed marketing programs for residual herbicides—and now the companies that have been promoting this all year tell us they have run out of material. They claim the increase in acreage and better acceptance of residual herbicides was greater than they anticipated. I have a word for that, but it does not change the situation.

My suggestion:

Order product needed as soon as possible and take delivery as soon as possible.

If no preemergence herbicide is available, switch to Liberty Link cotton and use Ignite + Dual early postemergence. Tom Barber has information on LL varieties.

If LL cotton is not an option, plant soybean.

## **Cotton Status (Tom Barber – Cotton Specialist)**

Severe weather that moved through the state over the weekend has halted planting in many areas due to excessive rainfall amounts and standing water, especially in Mississippi County and other counties throughout northeast Arkansas. Many producers in these areas are waiting for water to recede and lower ends to dry before planting can continue. There are some areas where planters are rolling this week, and Arkansas producers could potentially be 60 percent to 70 percent planted by the weekend. Winds are strong and have halted many herbicide applications for weed control, and on sandy soils, high winds may result in considerable sand blasting of seedling cotton. On a positive note, all seems to be quiet on the insect front so far.

Herbicide shortages have been a concern lately, especially with producers who farm in areas with high probabilities of pigweed resistance. Unfortunately, it appears that options may be limited not only with herbicides but with cotton varieties as well. Through conversations with representatives from Phytogen and Fibermax, there seems to be very little to no seed left for Liberty Link varieties or

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Phytogen varieties containing the Widestrike gene. So the bottom line is, if you haven't purchased your residual herbicides or Ignite tolerant cotton variety, then the options are few for management of resistant pigweed in problem fields.

### Re-plant Decisions

I have compiled a checklist for replants below. When evaluating the current stand, make sure to check the health of the plant both above ground and especially below ground. The plants can look pretty ragged and still survive as long as the root system is healthy.

I have summarized some points below, but the entire article can be found on the website at [http://www.aragriculture.org/crops/cotton/comments/Cotton\\_Comments\\_04\\_03.pdf](http://www.aragriculture.org/crops/cotton/comments/Cotton_Comments_04_03.pdf)

In fields with questionable stands, you must consider several things before making a replant decision:

1. What is the calendar date?
2. What is the population of plants that will survive?
3. What is the health of those plants, especially their roots?
4. Is seedling disease present?
5. What is the population uniformity, are there large skips and frequent skips?
6. What is the productive capability of the soil, and is the field irrigated?
7. How much yield potential will be lost by replanting?

A big consideration is soil type and moisture. If the soil type is one that dries quickly, replanting decisions must be made ASAP and carried out before moisture falls out of the beds. If plant distribution is fairly uniform in fields on productive soils, good yields can be made with low plant populations, perhaps in the low 20,000 plants per acre range, or as low as 1.5 plants per row-foot with no or few skips. If the stands are broken with numerous skips, replanting is in order at populations below 30,000 plants per acre, depending on the size and frequency of skips. Data from the mid-South and southeast suggests that if you have 10-13 skips that are 3 foot or longer in 80 foot of row, then a re-plant will be justified. In some cases, a grower may "spot-in" areas of the field with his planter; however, in many situations spot planting is not recommended because late season management will be more difficult. Spot planting should not be considered unless it can be done within 14 days of the original planting date. Cotton plants do have the ability to catch up with existing stands, but this timeframe is limited. As many producers remember from last year, spot planting is not as good of an idea as it sounds when you have some areas of the field ready to pick and the remainder is only 10 percent open.

Calendar date is significant; a stand you would plow up on May 1 would probably be kept on May 25. Due to recent weather events, some cotton will be replanted, but we still have plenty of time. Make your decisions and plant while conditions are good in early May. Variety selection is also important when replanting. It is not a good idea to plant a full season variety if the replanting date is the last

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week of May or first week of June. An early maturing variety will do better when the season is shortened because of a late planting date.

If replanting is necessary, continue to use insecticides and fungicides, especially if the first stand died from seedling disease. Use a burn-down herbicide to kill the old stand of cotton and any weeds that may have emerged on the row. Always remember: "If you have enough cotton left to make the decision difficult, you probably have enough to keep." Remember, after the current flooded conditions, it will take some time for the current stands to recover. Seedlings may look yellow and off color, but as the soil dries, oxygen will return to the roots and plants should begin to green back up.

### CRVP Update (Blake McClelland – CRVP Coordinator)

All of the verification fields are waiting to be planted except the field in Desha County, which was planted on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and the field in Lincoln County which was planted yesterday (May 7).

The Desha County field is at the one- to two-leaf stage; however, some of the bare spots are being filled in after this past weekend's rain. Overall the field looks very good and the cotton is really starting to grow, thanks to the weekend's shower and the warm temperatures that we've had over the past week. Some small weeds and seedling grasses are starting to emerge in this field, so this field should be getting its first shot of glyphosate soon. An application of Select will be added to control any glyphosate-resistant ryegrass. Rainfall amounts varied across the program's fields, with the Desha County field seeing the least amount of around 1 inch, while the Mississippi County field collected the most rainfall with a total of 4 inches over this past weekend. The rest of the fields recorded around 2 inches.

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