



The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
 College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



Georgia Cotton

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WORKSHOP REMINDER (Jost) The 2005 Georgia Cotton Production Workshop will be held December 14, 2005 in Tifton, GA. If you haven't already made plans to attend log onto www.ugacotton.com to get more details.

CROP SITUATION (Jost) Harvest is nearly complete across the state. However, there is still some cotton in the field, despite the nearly optimal harvest weather we had through October and most of November. This is no doubt related to the increase in peanut acreage this year.

I think the overall theme for yields this year was "it picked better than it looked"! The following table shows how the "forecasted yield" for the Georgia crop progressively increased throughout the season.

	August	September	October	November
Forecasted Yield	746 lbs/A	762 lbs/A	762 lbs/A	793 lbs/A

Source: National Agriculture Statistics Service (http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Georgia/index.asp)

If this 793 lbs/A were realized it would be the third highest average yield on record for the state of Georgia.

GEORGIA FIBER QUALITY SITUATION AND SUMMARY (Shurley). Through December 1, the USDA Cotton Classing Office in Macon had graded 1.4 million "running" bales or approximately 1.44 million 480-lb "statistical" bales— 72% of Georgia's expected 2.0 million bale crop (the bales ginned in Macon actually also include a small amount of Florida cotton).

Thus far for the 2005 crop, Staple and Strength appear very good, as in 2004, and on par with Memphis cotton. Average Staple is the same as last year. The percentage of bales Staple 35 and longer is up slightly from last year to 59.4% and the percentage of bales 33 and shorter is down. Color grade is improved from 2004 and 2003. Over 40% of the Georgia crop has thus far graded Color 31 or better.

Uniformity appears to continue to be a challenge. At 80.3, however, the Georgia crop this year is not the lowest in the country. Still, 23.2% of the state's crop thus far has graded Uniformity less than 79.5. Average fiber length is down slightly from last year.

Selected Fiber Quality Characteristics, Macon Classing Office, By Crop Year

	2003	2004	2005 ¹
Average Staple	34.2	34.7	34.7
Average Strength	27.9	29.4	29.4
Average Uniformity	80.5	80.6	80.3
% Bales Color 31 or Better	31.9%	30.6%	40.9%
% Bales Staple 35 and Longer	36.1%	58.0%	59.4%
% Bales Staple 33 and Shorter	22.2%	11.2%	7.5%
Average Fiber Length ²	27.5	28.0	27.8

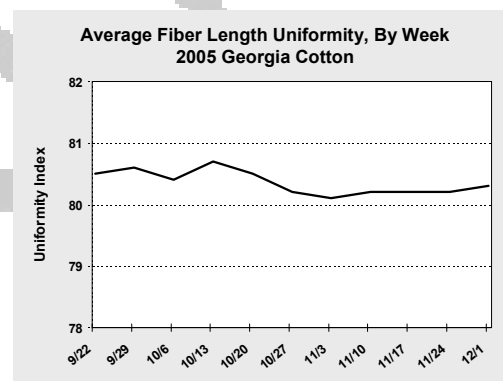
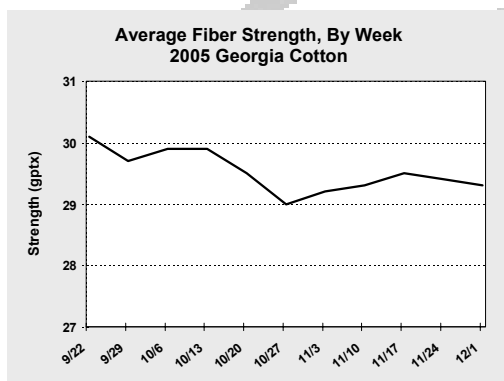
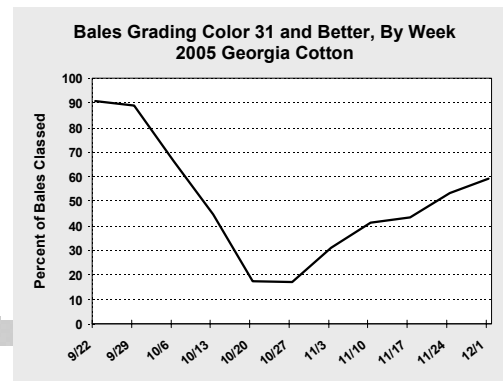
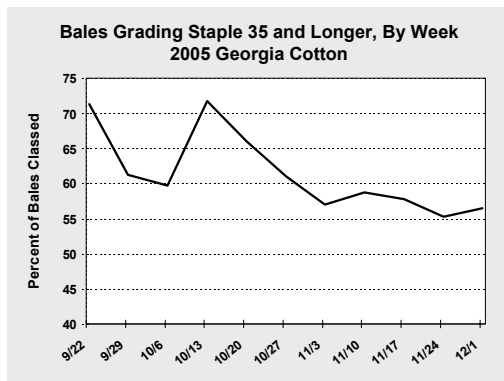
1/ Crop classed through December 1, 2005.

2/ Staple x Uniformity/100

An interesting analysis is to compare fiber quality characteristics through the harvest season. Fiber quality can be effected by harvest weather, defoliation and harvest timeliness, and the physical maturity of the crop.

Weather-wise, the state has for the most part, enjoyed a very favorable picking season. An analysis of weekly data as seen in the following graphs reveals that the percentage of bales of longer staple (35 and better) has generally declined through the harvest season although, due to favorable weather, has remained very good. Color grade (% of bales graded 31 and better) declined earlier in the season but trended up during November.

Average fiber Strength has trended downward only slightly during the season and fiber length Uniformity has remained relatively flat although higher early on in the season.



AVICTA COMPLETE PACK BRINGS WELCOME ATTENTION TO NEMATODES IN COTTON

(Kemerait) By now you have seen advertisements, billboards, or other items associated with the current media blitz for the new AVICTA seed treatment from Syngenta. Although these ads are designed to sell one product over another, I believe that they will go a long way in increasing interest and excitement in managing nematodes with *any* available tools. Nematodes remain a significant issue for cotton growers not only in Georgia, but around the country as well. Any strategy that increases awareness and management of the problem is welcomed.

For those of you who are still a bit uncertain, AVICTA Complete Pack is a cotton seed treatment marketed by Syngenta. It is composed of Dynasty CST (for seedling disease), Cruiser (for thrips control), and abamectin for nematode control. In Georgia, the benefits of using Dynasty CST in addition to fungicides already on the seed can be difficult to demonstrate in most seasons due to our sandy soils and warm soil temperatures at planting. The nematicide portion of the mix (abamectin) is only available in the “Complete Pack”. Growers who want to use this product will need to pre-order the treated seed. The final cost of the product per acre will depend on your seeding rate; however I have heard reliable estimates that the cost will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$18-\$21 per acre.

The most obvious benefit to the use of a seed treatment that contains a compound to manage nematocides is the convenience. Should AVICTA Complete Pack meet the needs of a cotton grower, he would be able to buy treated seed in bulk and not need to worry about monitoring and filling hopper boxes while planting.

For what it is worth, here is my current assessment of AVICTA Complete Pack:

1. I have had the opportunity to evaluate either AVICTA Complete pack or the nematicide component of AVICTA Complete Pack (abamectin) for the past three growing seasons.
2. Although I do not fully understand the mechanism, it is clear that the abamectin component of AVICTA Complete Pack can be an effective tool for managing nematode pests of cotton WHEN used in the appropriate situation.
3. AVICTA Complete Pack is often compared to Temik 15G for efficacy. Here are my thoughts:
 - a. In my field trials, there have been times when AVICTA Complete Pack has out-yielded Temik 15G at 5.0 lb/A and has been impressive.
 - b. Over the same period, there have been trials where Temik 15G out-yielded AVICTA Complete Pack.
 - c. There have been a number of trials where there was no difference in yield between the two treatments. However, this can be a bit misleading as in some of these trials, even plots WITHOUT a nematicide yielded well. Therefore, one really can't know how AVICTA Complete Pack would have performed with increased pressure from nematodes.
4. I am frequently asked, "Is AVICTA Complete Pack as good as 5.0 lb/A of Temik 15G for nematode control?" My honest answer is "I still don't really know for sure, but it could be." You ask, "How can this be when you have looked at the product for three years??" Here are a few reasons:
 - a. Getting consistent results in repeated nematode trials can be difficult because of the unequal distribution of nematodes in a field.
 - b. Weather has a tremendous effect on nematode damage. When growing conditions are optimal during a season, a "nematode" field may make respectable cotton even without a nematicide. When growing conditions are average, one may see a huge yield benefit when a nematicide is used in the same field.
 - c. On rare occasions, when growing conditions are near to perfect, you may find that the Cruiser or Gaucho Grande treated seed performs as well as seed with a nematicide or 5 lb/A Temik, despite the presence of nematodes in a field.
 - d. We have looked at Temik 15G, 5.0 lb/A, for thirty years. Even though it isn't perfect, we know that we can expect acceptable results in low-to moderate nematode pressure over the long term.
 - e. We have only evaluated AVICTA Complete Pack for three years. It is still too early in my opinion to know just how good the product is. I can't be certain how we will compare AVICTA Complete Pack and Temik 15G five years from now.
5. NOTE WELL: AVICTA Complete Pack should not be used in a field with heavy pressure from nematodes, unless it is supplemented with some other product, e.g. Telone II. AVICTA Complete Pack does not have the "power" to effectively manage nematodes in a severely infested field.
6. For whatever reason, I have achieved little success with AVICTA Complete Pack when compared to 5.0 lb/A Temik 15G in a conservation tillage field where poultry litter is applied each year. Conversely, AVICTA Complete Pack has out-yielded Temik 15G when heavy rains follow soon after planting.

The “Bottom Line”: AVICTA Complete Pack will likely provide benefit to cotton growers when used in fields where the fall nematode counts approach or slightly exceed the University of Georgia’s economic threshold values for root-knot, reniform, and Columbia lance nematodes. I encourage growers who decide to try this new product to include their standard Temik treatment in the same field for comparison.

GEORGIA QUALITY COTTON AWARD (*Jost*) (*Repeat*).....

As picking comes to a close I wanted to put in a final reminder about the Georgia Quality Cotton Award. Entry forms have been sent to all gins in Georgia soliciting nominations for the first Georgia Quality Cotton Award. Each gin will be allowed to nominate a grower within each of three acreage categories. Entry forms will also require that various information concerning the production of the crop be disclosed. In order for this entry form to be complete it must be verified by the county agent from which county the majority of the cotton is grown. Look for these packets over the next several weeks. While filling out entry forms may be a tedious process, they will be well worth the effort. The primary goals of this award are to recognize farmers and gins producing high quality cotton, identify associated management practices, and publicize improved quality in Georgia cotton.

Entry forms are available on the [UGA Cotton Web Page](#) and are due January 10, 2006, or you may call Philip Jost at 912-681-5639 for more information.

County agents please talk to ginners in your county to make sure they are aware of this award.

THINKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR (*Jost*) Growers are already thinking about what varieties to plant for next year. Preliminary data from the Statewide Variety Testing Program are posted on the UGA Cotton Web Page at www.ugacotton.com. In addition, several large plot variety trials were conducted across the state this year. Those results will be posted in the near future.

Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on these subjects.

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