

Cotton Newsletter: Volume 10, Number 2

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NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

- COTTON MID-SEASON
- FALL WEED CONTROL
- USDA MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM
- FOV4 SURVEY IN NM
- COTTON PRICES

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Cotton Mid-Season in New Mexico

Cotton crop in New Mexico is doing good. Except for the weed pressure in some fields, insect and disease pressures have been relatively low across cotton fields in NM. The only insect pressure observed in southwestern NM was leaf damage due to beet armyworm, but the damages were not severe enough to affect cotton growth and development. Also, many cotton fields were planted late due to the lower temperatures experienced in the spring. We hope that the temperature in fall season will not drop too early to enable the maturity of cotton in many fields.

For comments and contributions contact:

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FALL WEED CONTROL

Although weed management strategies in the fall tend to focus primarily on winter annual weeds, it is important to consider the perennial weeds as well. At this time of the year, the biological functions of perennial weeds, such as field bindweed, silverleaf nightshade, and dandelion, are shifting gears to ensure survival through the harsh winter temperatures.

Thus, they are actively growing and moving carbohydrates/nutrients into the root systems, which needs to survive until the plant can regrow in the spring. Postemergence (POST) herbicide active ingredients (and some PREs that have POST activity) that are applied during this growth period are more effectively translocated throughout the plant. This process actually enhances the activity of the herbicide within the plant, causing increased injury to the target weed leading into further damaging winter temperatures. As a result, fall is often the best suggested timing for herbicide application on perennial weeds in any cropping system.

It is also important to know about the activity of the herbicide when trying to make successful applications. The label will also provide directions on how to successfully apply and activate herbicides for improved plant uptake. For example, the labels for Prowl H2O and Treflan indicate the importance of incorporating these active ingredients effectively into the soil (irrigation or rainfall are the most effective). The active ingredients in these products are volatile, meaning that the longer they stay exposed on the surface of the soil where they were sprayed, the faster sunlight can break them down. Therefore, applying such herbicides without proper soil incorporation will lead to ineffective weed control.

It is important to always consider the labeled directions, the climate and the biology of your target weed when making herbicide applications. Any application made during less than ideal conditions can lead to herbicide failure, and ultimately, a wasted application. Applicators should always read and follow herbicide label directions to ensure safe and successful weed control.

For more information, contact Dr. Leslie Beck – NMSU Extension Weed Specialist



NM
STATE

USDA MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM

A USDA program called Market Facilitation Program (MFP) was initiated to assist farmers who suffer from economic damages because of trade disputes with foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July 2019. The sign-up period runs from August through December 6, 2019. Upland cotton belongs to the category of crops that are affected. If you are interested in this program, please contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency. You can also check for more information on what commodities are covered, who is eligible and how the payments work using this link:

<https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>

FOV4 SURVEY IN NEW MEXICO

Fusarium wilt race 4 (FOV4) is a soil-borne and seed-borne fungal pathogen that can greatly devastate cotton production. FOV4 can cause leaf necrosis, leaf yellowing, leaf wilting and defoliation of cotton plants, leading to eventual plant death. FOV4 was first found in California in the early 2000s and has since become a serious production problem in the state. In 2016 and 2017, FOV4 was reported in some fields on Pima cotton in the east El Paso area. To understand if we have a similar problem in New Mexico, a field survey for FOV4, which is in part funded by Cotton Inc., was conducted in several southwestern counties in mid-June 2019. Numerous cotton plant samples were collected for isolation of pathogenic fungi including FOV4. Several Pima cotton fields appeared to have FOV4, because dead plants and plants with typical FOV4 symptoms were observed (Figure 1 and 2). Morphological characterization and DNA analysis of the fungi isolated from infected plants collected in these fields confirmed the presence of FOV4. Further lab work is still on-going. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our cotton producers for your support and willingness to have your fields surveyed. Your cooperation is highly appreciated. Preliminary results were reported in the NM Cotton Ginners' Annual Meeting in July. Final results of the survey will be presented at the next NM Cotton Growers Conference in 2020. (Jinfa Zhang and John Idowu).

COTTON PRICES (2018/2019)

	2018		2019	
	Upland Cotton "A" Index*	ELS (Pima) Spot Price*	Upland Cotton "A" Index*	ELS (Pima) Spot Price*
January	91.06	124.70	82.35	102.50
February	88.27	124.70	81.15	102.20
March	92.14	124.70	83.81	97.50
April	92.24	123.70	87.25	97.50
May	94.48	117.60	80.14	97.50
June	97.71	116.70	77.65	97.50
July	96.18	116.70	75.54	97.50
August	94.55	116.70		
September	90.36	116.70		
October	86.80	116.40		
November	86.78	109.50		
December	86.00	107.00		

*Source: National Cotton Council of America and prices in (cents/pound of lint).



Figure 1. Dead seedlings were seen in the field. Photo taken by Jinfa Zhang, June 12, 2019.



Figure 2. Dead cotton seedlings collected by Jinfa Zhang, June 12, 2019.

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