



Articles in this month's issue include:

1. Georgia Cotton Commission Mid-Year Meeting – July 29, 2026 (*Camp Hand*)
2. Agricultural Risk is not a Shock Problem – It's a Decision Problem (*Yangxuan Liu*)
3. Managing the risks of a Fallow Field (*Taylor Singleton*)
4. July Mid-Season Cotton Irrigation Considerations (*Wesley Porter*)
5. Mid-season and the curse of spots and blights and tiger striping (*Bob Kemerait*)
6. Timeliness of Operation (*Wade Parker*)
7. Managing In-Season Nitrogen (*Doug Amaral*)
8. Aphid Fungus in SW Georgia (*Phillip Roberts*)
9. Tarnished Plant Bug Management (*Phillip Roberts*)
10. Cotton Jassid Update (*Phillip Roberts*)
11. PGR Responsiveness of Varieties (*Camp Hand*)

**Georgia Cotton Commission Mid-Year Meeting – July 29, 2026 (*Camp Hand*):** This entry in the newsletter is a reminder that of the Georgia Cotton Commission Mid-Year Meeting, scheduled for July 29, 2026 at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center on the campus of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA. The Georgia Cotton Commission has put together a great program featuring updates from the Georgia Cotton Commission, UGA Extension, Cotton Incorporated, and the National Ag Law Center. We will also present the Georgia Quality Cotton Awards during lunch. A full agenda and registration link can be found at [georgiacottoncommission.org](http://georgiacottoncommission.org).

This is always a great meeting with plentiful opportunities to interact with folks in the industry and we all look forward to seeing everyone there.

As always, if you have questions on this event or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to your local UGA County Extension Agent or the Georgia Cotton Commission.

**Agricultural Risk is not a Shock Problem – It's a Decision Problem (*Yangxuan Liu*):** The U.S. row crop sector is currently under significant economic pressure. Lower commodity prices, high input costs, policy uncertainty, and ongoing trade disruptions have combined to create a challenging operating environment for many producers. It is clear that all producers are currently facing a challenging farming environment. However, we also observe meaningful differences in outcomes and performance within this same difficult environment. Some farms remain relatively stable. Others experience severe financial stress. Some adjust quickly, while others struggle to respond.

**Why?** Traditional discussions of agricultural risk tend to focus on external shocks such as price volatility, drought, policy changes, or broader economic downturns. These factors certainly matter. They shape the environment in which farms operate. However, identical shocks do not produce identical outcomes. The difference is often not the shock itself, but how decisions are made in response to uncertainty.

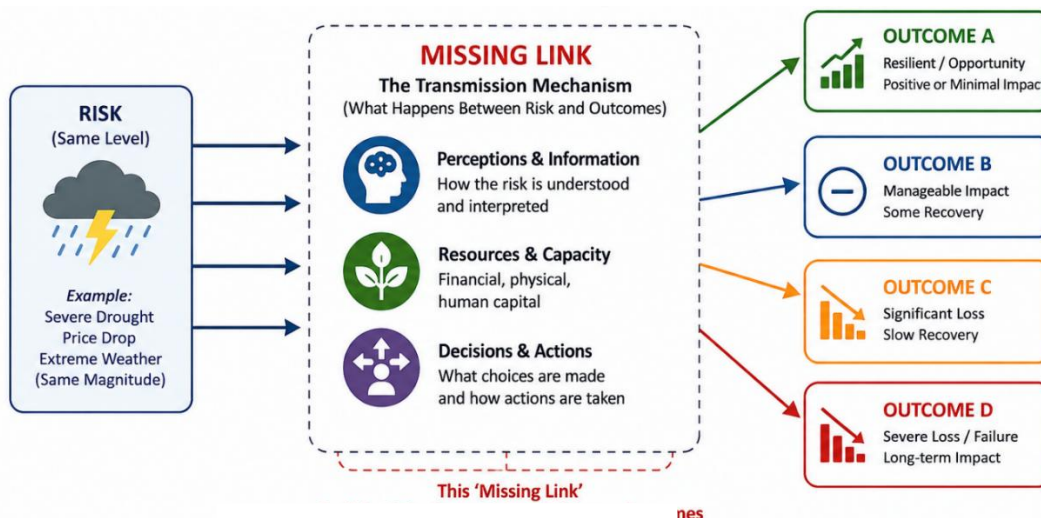
**Risk, by itself, does not generate outcomes, decisions do.** Between an external shock and its eventual outcome lies a chain of decision processes. Producers must recognize emerging risks, interpret available information, evaluate alternatives, and choose a course of action. These decisions ultimately shape whether a farm remains resilient or experiences distress.

Consider a decline in commodity prices. Two farms may face the same market conditions. Yet one farm may recognize the threat earlier, have stronger financial reserves, or possess better market information. Another may have limited flexibility or delayed responses. The result is different outcomes despite facing the same shock.

This perspective suggests a shift in risk management away from simply identifying threats. Equally important is understanding how individuals and organizations process uncertainty and transform information into action. Rather than asking only, “What risks exist?” we should also ask, “How are decisions made in the face of risks as well as when the shocks emerge?”

The future of agricultural risk management will not be determined solely by better tools available to producers, such as better forecasting tools, insurance products, policy supports, or market information systems. It will also depend on improving the decision processes that connect uncertainty to outcomes. In the next article, I will walk through what I call Liu’s 5Rs of Risk Management Model to explore how information systems, risk perception, behavioral factors, and structural constraints interact to shape real-world agricultural decisions and outcomes.

Figure 1. Same Risk, Different Outcomes: Where Is the Missing Link? (Designed with ChatGPT)



**Managing the risks of a Fallow Field (Taylor Singleton):** Now that the race to get everything planted is (hopefully) done, you may have a minute or two to think about what to do with fallow fields. On the bright side, I've seen very few empty fields as I've traveled around this summer, especially compared to last year. On the flip side, a field that sits completely bare can become a nightmare when it comes to runoff, erosion and building up pest populations (i.e. weeds that drop seed when mature to become *NEXT YEAR'S HEADACHE*).

There's no doubt it takes time and money to plant a summer cover, but think about the cost of rebuilding a washed out field (and the loss of valuable top soil/organic matter which makes growing crops even more expensive down the road [\\*NRCS fact sheet](#)) or the pressure that a full summer's worth of mature weed seed added back to the soil places on next years' pesticide applications (and potential need for more than normal). So if it pencils out for you to add a summer cover to your fallow fields, there's many options available depending on your goal. See 2025 [June](#) and [July](#) Cotton Team Newsletter articles for more information on goals and species selection.

Two of the most popular options around South Georgia are [browntop millet](#) and [sunn hemp](#). Both of these species grow fast, generate a lot of biomass, and cover the ground quickly, which helps accomplish most goals. One thing we've got to consider in the summer is day length, as many warm-season cover crop species are sensitive to the days getting shorter following the summer solstice. Interestingly, we lose 3hrs and 13min of sunlight between July 1 and Oct 31. To maximize the amount of time that the cover crop has to grow vegetatively (generate biomass) and get more value for the investment (\$\$\$), timely planting is actually really important!

Research trials from 2025 showed that browntop millet (30lb/ac) is aggressive enough that regardless if it's planted in July or August, it will cover the ground at a similar level, however biomass can take a hit when planted later (although this can be overcome with drilling vs broadcasting the seed at planting). At a seed cost of roughly ~\$0.50/lb this year, the investment for a fallow field could be worth the potential savings in years to come. Sunn hemp is a little bit trickier – this species is highly sensitive to the shorter days, and when we planted in August (compared to July), we lost almost 25% of our ground coverage, but again this can be overcome with drilling vs broadcasting the seed at planting. At a seed cost of roughly ~\$1.30/lb this year, maximize this investment by planting ASAP! Both of these species produce viable seed, so keep that in mind. Please contact your county extension agent for information on additional warm-season species that can be utilized in Georgia.

**July Mid-Season Cotton Irrigation Considerations (Wesley Porter):** This season, as is typical, has brought its own unique challenges. We went from very dry to a two to three-week period of near continuous rainfall. While the rainfall is always welcome and provided a much-needed soil profile refill, it did keep people out of the field for a few weeks. However, we have gotten very hot and have dried back out again, and the crop is moving through squaring and into bloom. Rainfall seems sporadic, and unreliable as a guarantee of supplemental moisture right now. As we move into July, much of the cotton crop across southern Georgia is entering or approaching peak water use. While rainfall patterns have varied across the region, producers should not assume that forecasted rain events will provide adequate

moisture for every field. This period from early bloom through peak bloom represents one of the most critical irrigation management windows of the season.

One useful tool for estimating crop water demand is the UGA Weather Network, where producers can access daily evapotranspiration (ET) information. It is important to remember that weather station ET values do not represent actual crop water use. To estimate cotton water use, ET values should be adjusted using the appropriate crop coefficient. This principle forms the foundation of both the UGA Extension Checkbook Method and the SmartIrrigation CropFit App.

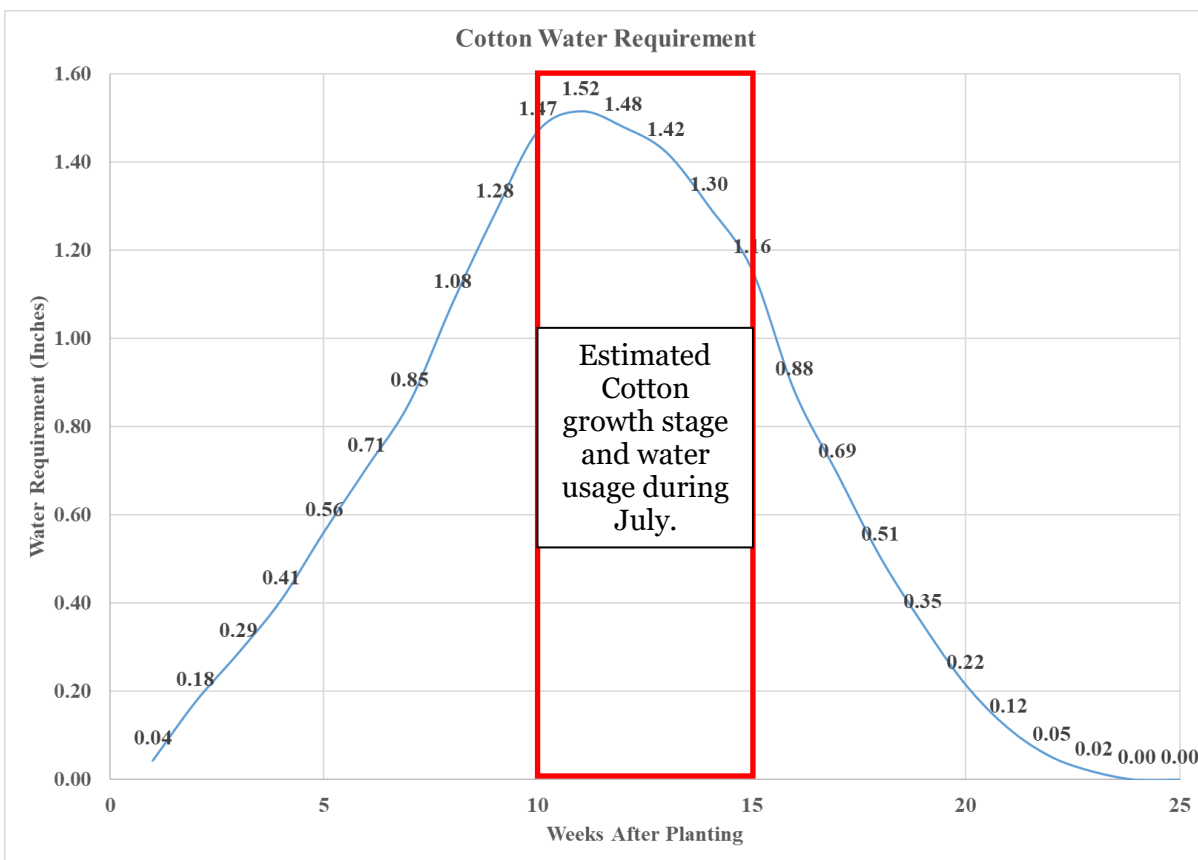


Figure 1. The UGA Cotton Checkbook water use curve with an estimated water requirement highlighted.

The Checkbook Method remains a valuable irrigation scheduling tool; however, producers should remember that it was developed using historical weather averages. During periods of unusually high temperatures, low humidity, and persistent winds, actual crop water demand may exceed historical estimates. For this reason, soil moisture sensors and real-time irrigation scheduling tools often provide more accurate information than calendar-based irrigation scheduling alone.

Cotton planted during April and May should now be squaring, blooming, or entering peak bloom. Bloom typically begins approximately nine weeks after planting, and water demand increases rapidly during this period. Once flowering begins, maintaining adequate soil moisture becomes increasingly important because the crop enters a stage where yield potential is highly sensitive to water stress. As has been documented with soil moisture sensors in the past, during bloom the crop typically begins to extract deep moisture for the first time. Deep moisture is often difficult to replace via irrigation alone, just keep this in mind as you move through bloom and adjust your irrigation management strategy accordingly. The most critical irrigation period extends from **first flower to first open boll**, generally occurring between weeks 9 and 17 after planting. During this growth stage, cotton water use commonly reaches its seasonal maximum. Under typical southern Georgia conditions, cotton may require as much as **1.5 inches of water per week**, or approximately **0.20 inches per day**. During extended periods of high temperatures and strong solar radiation, daily water demand may exceed these averages.

Producers should remember that the water available to the crop is limited by rooting depth and soil characteristics. Many Coastal Plain soils have a soil water-holding capacity near 1.0 inch per foot of soil. However, only a portion of that water is readily available to the plant. For example, cotton rooted to a depth of 18 inches may only have access to approximately 0.75 inches of plant-available water when the profile is at field capacity. Under peak demand conditions, that reserve can be depleted rapidly if irrigation or rainfall is insufficient.

As a result, irrigation events may need to occur every three to four days on coarse-textured soils, depending on rainfall, irrigation efficiency, rooting depth, and evaporative demand. Producers should avoid allowing the crop to repeatedly approach wilting conditions during bloom, as even short periods of stress can reduce fruit retention and limit yield potential.

Another factor to consider is rainfall effectiveness. Summer thunderstorms often produce intense rainfall over short periods. While a weather station or rain gauge may record 1.5 inches of rainfall, not all of that water necessarily infiltrates into the root zone. Runoff, soil crusting, and infiltration limitations can significantly reduce the amount of water stored in the soil profile. Soil moisture sensors provide valuable information for determining how much of a rainfall event actually benefited the crop.

As fields move through peak bloom during July, producers using soil moisture sensors will often notice increased water extraction from deeper depths in the profile. This transition can occur quickly and often signifies that the crop has entered its period of maximum water demand. Once deep soil moisture reserves are depleted, they can be difficult to replenish using irrigation alone, particularly on fields with limited irrigation capacity.

For that reason, it is essential to avoid falling behind on irrigation during bloom. Recovering from a moisture deficit is often more difficult than preventing it. At the same time, excessive irrigation should also be avoided because overwatering can reduce root function, increase disease risk, encourage excessive vegetative growth, and ultimately impact yield. Cotton irrigation optimization can be a very difficult task! The key takeaway for July is that irrigation decisions should be based on actual crop demand, current weather conditions, and soil moisture status whenever possible. Cotton water use can vary substantially

depending on temperature, solar radiation, humidity, cloud cover, and crop growth stage. Using multiple sources of information—including weather data, scheduling tools, and soil moisture measurements—will help optimize irrigation applications and protect yield potential through the remainder of the season.

For additional irrigation scheduling information, contact your local UGA Cooperative Extension agent or consult the **UGA Irrigation Reference Guide for Corn, Cotton, Peanuts, and Soybeans**.

<https://fieldreport.caes.uga.edu/publications/C1189/irrigation-reference-guide-for-corn-cotton-peanuts-and-soybeans/>

**Mid-season and the curse of spots and blights and tiger striping (Bob Kemerait):** A critical component of any disease or nematode management program in cotton is “timeliness”. “Timeliness” means deploying the best management tactic to fight diseases and nematodes before they become well-established or while there is still opportunity to use a tactic. August is an important time in the cotton season to both be timely for possible fungicide applications and for preparation for the 2026 cotton crop.

As of late July 2026, there are four foliar diseases likely to be active in some, but not all, cotton fields in Georgia. These diseases include bacterial blight, caused by *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *malvacearum*, Stemphylium leaf spot, caused by the fungus *Stemphylium solani*, target spot, caused by the fungus *Corynespora cassiicola*, and areolate mildew, caused by two species from the fungal genus *Ramulariopsis*.

Threat of bacterial blight will be where susceptible varieties are planted. There is little that can be done to manage bacterial blight at this time, other than to note if it has occurred in your fields and which varieties have been affected. Now is the time that growers should note the level of bacterial blight in their crop and begin to make decisions for variety selection for 2027. Growers have an increasing number of “bacterial blight resistant” varieties from which to choose, but to choose for next season.



Bacterial Blight. Photo by Bob Kemerait

Stemphylium leaf spot is characterized by numerous small spots with dark purple/brown margins and often times gray, papery centers. These spots often appear first in the top of the leaf canopy, but can be found throughout the plant's foliage. This disease is widespread and will become even more so as the season progresses. Stemphylium leaf spot occurs when the cotton plant is deficient in potassium; potassium deficiencies may exist because of poor soil fertility, perhaps from soil-leaching, and during periods of drought where potassium is not taken up into the plant. Stemphylium leaf spot is also commonly observed in plants affected by plant parasitic nematodes. Stemphylium leaf spot is managed by insuring proper levels of potassium in the plant; fungicides are NOT an effective management tool.



Stemphylium leaf spot. Photo Greg Slaughter

Target spot is often present in many fields across the Coastal Plain of the state, though there have not been any reports, yet, of severe premature defoliation in 2026. Target spot can develop quickly when there is high humidity and frequent rainfall. This disease is most common in good-growing cotton with high yield potential. Extended periods of leaf wetness, where the foliage in the interior of the canopy remains wet well into the later morning hours, create perfect conditions for rapid development of target spot and premature defoliation from it. Fungicides are an important management tool for target spot, though use does not always result in increased yields. From our research, effective use of fungicides should be considered between the first and sixth week of bloom where the third week of bloom is typically the most critical time of management. Scouting before use of fungicides to determine if the disease is present helps to ensure that an application is warranted. Priaxor and Miravis Top are currently the most effective fungicides for control of target spot, though Headline, Quadris and other formulations of azoxystrobin are also effective.



Target spot. Photo Jason Brock

Areolate mildew has been especially severe in Georgia since 2017. It is expected that this disease will quickly spread as we move from late July into August. Areolate mildew has historically been confined to southeastern Georgia east of I-75; however it can now be a problem for cotton growers across the Coastal Plain. Until 2017 this disease typically arrived too late in the season to cause any damage (in fact, late-season defoliation may be a benefit), use of fungicides had often not been warranted. Based upon data from recent field trials, judicious use of the same fungicides used to control target spot is warranted in the management of areolate mildew. Growers within four weeks of defoliating their cotton need not worry about managing areolate mildew. Where areolate mildew occurs in a crop with anticipated defoliation a month or more away, and weather is favorable for continued development and spread of the disease, use of a fungicide may be beneficial to protect yield. Timely use of a fungicide has protected between 100 and 250 lb/lint per acre.. As for target spot, Priaxor and Miravis Top are our best fungicides for management of areolate mildew. Resistance seems to have developed to the fungicide azoxystrobin.



Areolate mildew. Photo by Jeremy Kichler.

Frequent rains in July and August increase the risk for all types of spots on cotton, but potentially for different reasons. Rain and high-humidity increase create more-favorable conditions for infection and spread of target spot and areolate mildew. Heavy rains can leach potassium from the root-zone of the cotton crop, thus increasing the risk for *Stemphylium* leaf spot and *Cercospora* leaf spot.

While some cotton varieties may be more susceptible to target spot or areolate mildew than others, no cotton varieties are resistant to either disease. One of the biggest challenges in protecting a cotton crop with a fungicide against target spot or areolate mildew is that coverage is needed throughout the canopy. However, getting sufficient fungicide coverage there is a real challenge but can be improved by 1) increasing spray volume, 2) increasing spray pressure, and 3) making the first fungicide application early enough before the canopy of leaves is fully closed.

UGA Extension does not have a blanket recommendation for treating a cotton crop with a fungicide to control target spot and areolate mildew, though when this disease occurs early enough, growers can expect losses of lint to reach 200 lb/A (or more). Growers are advised to begin carefully scouting a cotton crop at the approach of the first week of bloom, checking the lower canopy for tell-tale symptomatic leaves. If target spot and areolate mildew are not identified after careful scouting, growers may delay a fungicide application and scout again in the coming weeks. From our research, the best timing of a fungicide application is often during the third week of bloom; where disease pressure is high, a second application may be beneficial two weeks later. Fungicides are not needed after the sixth week of bloom for target spot and within four weeks of expected defoliation for areolate mildew.

It is too late to protect our 2026 cotton crop from plant-parasitic nematodes or Fusarium wilt; however July is the month that symptoms of such may become evident in the field. Where stunting, poor growth and even dying plants are found in areas of a field, growers should take measures to determine 1) is it caused by nematodes?, 2) if so, what kind of nematodes, and 3) is Fusarium wilt also involved. Detection and identification now will help growers to make best variety selection and possible use of nematicides in 2027. Distinctive interveinal chlorosis (I call it “tiger striping”) is often associated with both nutrient deficiencies and with damage from plant parasitic nematodes on a cotton crop. Finding such in a field should encourage growers to check further for the presence of root-knot, reniform, or sting nematodes with appropriate soil sampling.



Photo of interveinal chlorosis by Glen Harris

**Timeliness of Operation (Wade Parker):** I can remember growing up on the farm and taking or not taking a lot of advice from extension, retailers, salespeople etc. However, one local retailer always preached a consistent message, “if you can’t do it on time, don’t do it all.” Looking back, that small phrase carried a lot of weight back then and still does today. While many variables prevent us from being on time with crop management operations such as weather, equipment issues, and labor; there are many times being on time can be improved. Most of the calls fielded lately could have been prevented by just being on time. Here are some examples of topics that we are dealing with or will be dealing with relative to timing:

**Weed management:** Goosegrass is getting to be a household name around many farms. This grassy weed was once easily controlled with an over-the-top application of glyphosate. If a selective pre herbicide was not used at planting; goosegrass must be treated at a very young stage of growth (*less than 2” in height*) in conjunction with a residual herbicide to prevent future emergence. We have some very large patches of goosegrass that are currently thriving because of not being aggressive and poor timing of products. Tropical spiderwort is another weed that has been getting worse for the past fifteen years. Proper timing of pre-and-post herbicides are once again a necessity in controlling this invasive weed. Once you see it, something either went wrong or something was not done that could have been done.

**Fertility:** When it comes to fertility, many growers focus on fertilizer type and application rate. Should I use ammonium sulfate, urea, liquid vs. dry and how much per acre to apply. These are all common questions as side dressing is prominent around the state. It is easy to overlook the single factor that determines whether the nutrients are absorbed or not, which is application timing. Applying the right product at the wrong moment can lead to nutrient loss through leaching, surface runoff or volatilization. Therefore, wasting resources and reducing crop response. Nutrients should be applied as close as possible to when demand is the greatest. In the case of cotton, nutrient demand increases exponentially on or before first bloom as boll production ramps up. Applying too much nitrogen early in the life cycle raises the likelihood of losses to leaching, excess vegetation and run off. On the other hand, applying nutrients too late means the crop has set its yield potential without proper nutritional support.

**Plant Growth Regulator(s):** As cotton gets taller and the internodes stretch farther apart, the plant is less likely to respond to PGRs. The plant is physiologically sensitive to PGR’s early in its life cycle. As we all know, the rates and timing are conducive to variety, soil type, and fertility levels. You can not put the genie back in the bottle once the plant gets too big nor do PGRs shrink plants. Many of our varieties require pre-bloom applications of a PGR. We must continue to educate our growers on PGR rates and stress the importance of timing relative to growth. Being on time will prevent future management issues.

**Defoliation:** I realize we are not in the season of cotton defoliation. Being on time is critical to prevent yield loss. Will Brown and I did a research trial on cotton defoliation timing last year. Defoliating 14 days before 60% open boll yielded 684 lbs./A versus defoliating on time yielded 1,176 lbs./A. This data supports how important timeliness is. I will get more in depth with trial results as we get closer but wanted to use this as an example that hits home on the overall message of timeliness.

There are many more examples in row crop agriculture that accentuate the importance of being on time, as these are just a few. It all starts and stops with education, which is what we do!

**Managing In-Season Nitrogen (Doug Amaral):** This season's frequent rain and soggy fields have made nitrogen management tricky for cotton growers across Georgia. Heavy rainfall raises the odds of nitrogen loss through leaching. Even so, nitrogen availability isn't a lost cause. Growers still have a window to protect yield through careful in-season fertility decisions.

Side-dress nitrogen is one of the most consequential calls a cotton grower makes during early reproductive growth. In Georgia, the sweet spot for application generally falls between first square and early bloom. Fields already showing pale, washed-out foliage or sluggish growth need to move to the front of the line for treatment. And if heavy rain likely washed out some of the preplant nitrogen, breaking the remaining rate into two applications can boost efficiency and hedge against further loss if the wet pattern continues.

Cotton doesn't need much nitrogen in its early weeks, but that changes fast once squaring starts, demand climbs sharply and stays elevated through flowering. This is actually good news for fields that lost some nitrogen early on, as long as adequate nitrogen gets applied before the plant hits peak demand, recovery is often possible. The target is steady nitrogen supply through the reproductive stretch, without overdoing it late in the season, since excess nitrogen then can push back maturity and encourage too much vegetative growth at the plant's expense.

Sulfur deserves a spot in the side-dress conversation too. It works hand-in-hand with nitrogen, so a sulfur shortfall can undercut how well the plant uses the nitrogen you've already applied. Sandy, low-organic-matter soils are the most likely candidates for deficiency. In those situations, tacking on 10 to 15 pounds of sulfur per acre alongside the nitrogen application is usually a smart move.



*Sulfur deficiency often appears as pale green or yellow coloration on younger leaves and can be confused with nitrogen deficiency.*

Plant tissue analysis is a useful check on the crop's nutritional status mid-season. The standard approach is to sample the most recently matured leaves sometime between first square and early bloom. But tissue results shouldn't stand alone, pair them with what you're seeing in the field, soil test data, recent weather, and your fertilizer history. Used this way, tissue analysis helps confirm a suspected deficiency and points you toward a fix before yield takes a real hit. A good cotton tissue test should range from 3.0 to 4.5%.

Soil texture, rainfall totals, irrigation access, the previous crop, and yield potential all factor into whether and how much additional nitrogen makes sense for a given field. If you're worried about nutrient losses or just want a second opinion on your fertility program, your local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension office is a good place to start. A timely check-in now can pay off in fertilizer efficiency and protected yield for the rest of the season.

**Aphid Fungus in SW Georgia (Phillip Roberts):** We have received several reports of the aphid fungus in southwest Georgia. Aphid populations have been very sporadic, and the fungus is being observed in fields which had relatively high aphid populations. Once you observe the fungus in the field, aphid populations will generally crash within 7 days. As a reminder, gray fuzzy aphid cadavers on the underside of the leaf are indicative of the aphid fungus.

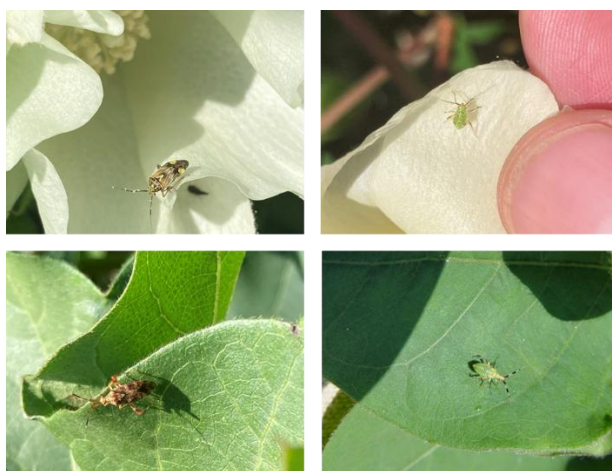


*Gray fuzzy aphid cadavers are indicative of the naturally occurring aphid fungus which crashes populations (photo by Kurt Majeski).*

**Tarnished Plant Bug Management (Phillip Roberts):** In recent years, we have seen increasing infestations of both tarnished and clouded plant bugs in cotton during the blooming period. This trend has been particularly evident in parts of Georgia during the last two years, where some fields harbored established, reproducing plant bug populations throughout bloom. This year, plant bugs have already been

a concern in squaring cotton in certain areas, and we are now beginning to detect immature stages in blooming cotton within those same regions.

When monitoring immature plant bugs, a drop cloth remains the most effective sampling method. The economic threshold is 3 plant bugs per 6 row-feet when using a drop cloth. Keep in mind that clouded plant bugs should be weighted at 1.5 times their actual number and added to the tarnished plant bug count when making treatment decisions.



*Tarnished plant bug adult (top left) and nymph (top right). Clouded plant bug adult (bottom left) and nymph (bottom right).*

Immature plant bugs can feed on larger squares that the plant does not shed, resulting in damaged fruiting structures. This injury often appears as “dirty blooms,” characterized by discolored anthers and/or misshapen petals. The presence of dirty blooms indicates current or recent feeding by immature plant bugs and should prompt additional drop-cloth sampling to determine the abundance of nymphs and assess whether management is warranted.



*"Dirty" blooms resulting from plant bug feeding on large squares.*

**Cotton Jassid Update (Phillip Roberts):** To date, very low numbers of cotton jassids have been detected on cotton in 6 counties (Grady, Brooks, Tift, Coffee, Bacon, and Colquitt). Detections mean we have observed at least one adult jassid on cotton in the county. Infestations in cotton are not even close to a threshold at this time, but they were found. As we enter 2026, our recommended threshold for jassids is a mean of 1 per leaf when sampling the 4<sup>th</sup> mainstem leaf below the terminal. A single jassid was also detected on soybeans at the Southwest Research and Education Center in Plains. Jassids have also been detected in Gadsden County Florida and Elmore County Alabama. Entomologists in the southeast are tracking jassid detections in cotton by county. This information is posted on the following website: <https://stop2scl.org/cotton/>.

As a reminder, we can only identify adults; we cannot identify the immature or nymph stages. Adults can be identified by the presence of two prominent black spots on the wings (see figure 1). We have seen many "fake" jassids; some of which are similar in size and color but lack the two black spots. If you detect jassids on any plant in your county, please let us know.



*Cotton jassid adults can be recognized by the two black spots near the end of the wings (photo by Zach Williams).*

**PGR Responsiveness of Varieties (Camp Hand):** It is that time of year, where sprayers are making trips over squaring and blooming cotton, and the calls are rolling in on growth management. Managing vegetative growth in cotton requires knowledge on soil fertility, field history, and variety responsiveness. Environmental conditions also play a major role in the growth of the crop, and coming off of the overcast and rainy days we experienced over the last few weeks, the sunshine and high temps have sent this crop into over drive. Even in some of our June planted cotton, we need to consider evaluating growth rates and consider applying PGRs, particularly if you want to try and shorten your season. Below is a relative scale of variety aggressiveness that I have tried to modernize over the last 5 years. One thing I would point out

is where DP 2333 B3XF resides on this list, as many acres are planted to that variety this year. In my experience, DP 2333 B3XF is a very responsive variety that will require lower rates and fewer applications than many growers have grown accustomed to with varieties like DP 2038 B3XF, ST 5091 B3XF, or even DG 3799 B3XF. When switching from an aggressive variety to something more responsive, it can be easy to overdo it, so be cognizant of the variety you are spraying.

## PGR Responsiveness of Varieties

Responsiveness to PGRs	Variety
Least Responsive (i.e. Highest growth potential)	DG 3615 B3XF, DG 3799 B3XF, DG H959 B3XF, DG 4484 B3TXF DP 2055 B3XF NG 4611 B3XF, NG 5430 B3XF
Varieties with similar growth potential as first group, but slightly more responsive to PGRs	DP 1646 B2XF, DP 2038 B3XF, DP 2127 B3XF, DP 2131 B3TXF, DP 2141 B3XF, DP 2211 B3TXF, DP 2328 B3TXF, DP 2349 B3XF, DP 2414 B3TXF PHY 357 W3FE, PHY 433 W3FE, PHY 475 W3FE, PHY 545 W3FE ST 5091 B3XF, ST 5855 AXTP, ST 5931 AXTP, ST 6000 AXTP NG 4190 B3XF DG 4434 B3TXF AR 9371 B3XF, AR 9831 B3XF
Varieties that may need PGRs, but pre-bloom applications not typically necessary	ST 4595 B3XF, ST 4990 B3XF, DG 3528 B3XF NG 3195 B3XF, NG 4936 B3XF, NG 3299 B3XF DP 2012 B3XF, DP 2020 B3XF, DP 2239 B3XF, DP 2333 B3XF, DP 2317 B3TXF PHY 411 W3FE, PHY 415 W3FE
Most Responsive (i.e. Lowest growth potential)	PHY 360 W3FE, PHY 400 W3FE DP 2115 B3XF

One other suggestion is pay attention to which product you are using – there have been a lot of mix ups in the last few years when someone says “Go put a pint on X field” and a pint of 6X gets applied to squaring cotton (that would be almost 100 oz/acre of regular Pix). So let’s make sure we are all speaking the same language when it comes to what is getting applied where and with what product.

As always if there are other questions that are not addressed here please don’t hesitate to reach out. Additional information can be found on episodes of the Talkin’ Cotton Podcast as well. Be safe out there and happy spraying.

### **Important Dates:**

*Georgia Cotton Commission Mid-Year Meeting - Statesboro, GA – July 29, 2026*

*Attapulgus Research and Education Center Field Day – Attapulgus, GA – July 30, 2026*

*Southwest Research and Education Center Field Day – Plains, GA – August 5, 2026*

*Southeast Research and Education Center Field Day – Midville, GA – August 12, 2026*  
*Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day – Tifton, GA – September 2, 2026*  
*Georgia Cotton Commission Annual Meeting and UGA Cotton Production Workshop - Tifton, GA – January 27, 2027*