

Hot, Dry Conditions Persist in PCG Area

Friday, June 1, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The first final planting date for federal crop insurance has come and gone – May 31 for northern and northwestern counties in the PCG service area – and for many, rain continues to elude newly planted cotton seeds struggling to even emerge, much less establish a stand.

Temperatures soaring over the 100-degree mark coupled with some wind and overall low humidity make conditions extremely harsh for cotton plants and growers alike, regardless of whether the acreage is irrigated. Current ten-day forecasts for Lubbock include slight chances for rain each day and a cooler weekend coming up before temperatures return to the 100s just in time for the next final plant date for the Lubbock area and central portions of the PCG service area on June 5. Growers south and southeast of Lubbock have until June 10 to plant, and further east off of the Caprock, growers have a June 20 deadline to get seeds planted.

Meanwhile, markets also continued to soar, with December futures trading at just more than 92 cents at press time. Several factors are playing into the price rally, and the market's eyes remain on West Texas, the drought, and the potential for the 2018 crop that, barring a good rain, likely will be diminished.

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Extension Update: Minimizing Off-Target Movement of Auxin Herbicides

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 By Gaylon Morgan, Pete Dotray, and Scott Nolte, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Numerous complaints have been received from the off-target movement of auxin herbicides in parts of South and East Texas over the past two weeks. Due to the extremely high sensitivity of cotton to 2,4-D, it is not too surprising that most of the incidents appear to be off-target movement of 2,4-D. In much of Texas, observing 2,4-D injury in cotton is common, but some of the incidents this year do appear to be from applications in row crops. We do not have the specific application records for each of these incidents, and know that the off-target movement of the auxin herbicides is in large part the result of not following the application requirements specified on the product labels, including confusion that wind blowing in the direction of susceptible crops (non-Enlist cotton) cannot be overcome by the use of in-field buffers (which are only in place to protect against sensitive areas), incorrect spray nozzles, excessive boom

heights, inappropriate tank mix partners, and spraying in a temperature inversion.

Due to the incidences that have already occurred in South and East Texas, Texas Department of Agriculture is well-aware of the situation and will be taking action to minimize off-target movement into the future. Specifically, TDA will increase the number of use observations and applicator record inspections in areas with higher probability of off-target complaints and also will increase their interactions with distributors. If these auxin herbicides cannot be kept on-target, the potential for additional federal and/or state restrictions can be implemented, OR, access to these products could be lost all together.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service made a major effort to education applicators about the application requirements for XtendiMax, Engenia, and FeXapan, per the required mandatory Auxin training. As of May 15, 2018, it is estimated that over 6,400 licensed and unlicensed applicators were trained by Extension and another 580 were trained by Monsanto and BASF at over 180 certification trainings that occurred in English and Spanish. Although the vast majority of the principles discussed in the Auxin Trainings were relevant to Enlist, no mandatory training was required. So, the focus of this article is on the application requirements for Enlist herbicides in cotton. See below.

[Enlist One](#) and [Enlist Duo](#) application requirements:

- IF THE WIND IS BLOWING TOWARDS ADJACENT SUSCEPTIBLE CROPS, DO NOT APPLY Enlist Duo or Enlist One. These susceptible crops include Cotton without the Enlist trait, Grapes, commercially grown tomatoes and other fruiting vegetables (EPA CROP GROUP 8 and 9). **NO BUFFER DISTANCE will suffice when the wind is blowing towards these crops.**
- A minimum 30 foot buffer is required between the application area and a sensitive area (THIS SENSITIVE AREA IS NOT THE SAME AS THE SUSCEPTIBLE PLANTS LISTED ABOVE).
- DO NOT apply under circumstances where spray drift may occur to food, forage, or other plantings that might be damaged or crops thereof rendered unfit for sale, use or consumption. DO NOT allow contact of herbicide with foliage, green stems, exposed non-woody roots.
- DO NOT apply at wind speeds greater than 10 MPH in Texas. Although not included on the label, applications should not be made with wind speeds less than 3 mph, because winds speeds above 3 mph helps ensure that a temperature inversion is not occurring.
- Use only approved nozzles and operating pressures listed on the product labels. Several nozzle models for each of these manufacturers are currently approved for Enlist One and Enlist Duo applications. Consult the label for the maximum operating pressures for each nozzle to minimize driftable fine spray droplets.

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- ABJ Agri, GreenLeaf, Hypro, Lechier, TeeJet, and Wilger
- Enlist Duo and Enlist One may only be tank-mixed with products that have been tested and found not to adversely affect the spray drift properties. A list of those products may be found at EnlistTankmix.com. Visit this site no more than 7 days before applying these products.
- Use the minimum boom height based upon the nozzle manufacturer's directions. For all the nozzles listed on the label, the boom height should not exceed 20".
- Under low relative humidity conditions, larger droplets will reduce droplet evaporation. Droplet evaporation is most severe when conditions are both hot and dry.
- DO NOT make applications during local, low level temperature inversions because of increased drift potential. These conditions typically begin to occur as the sun sets and often continue into the morning hours. These conditions are common on nights with limited cloud cover and light to no winds.
- Thoroughly clean equipment used to apply these products before using the equipment to apply other chemicals. Consult the product labels for sprayer clean-out procedures.
- DO NOT aerially apply these products.
- DO NOT apply these products through any type of irrigation systems.

TALL Names Cohort XVI

Thursday, May 31, 2018 By Blair Fannin, AgriLife TODAY

Twenty-five agriculture professionals have been selected for the Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr. Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership, or TALL, Program as Cohort XVI.

The two-year program, led by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is an intensive study of agriculture worldwide that equips agriculture industry professionals to lead their fields, according to Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, program director.

"The program is a competitive leadership development program that includes seminars with experts, on-site tours, meetings with business and government leaders, international study and personal skills improvement," Mazurkiewicz said.

Surveys from past participants consistently rank the TALL experience higher than experiences in their previous professional activities and collegiate engagements.

TALL XVI 2018-2020 participants by county are: Stephanie Bradley-Fryer, Jones; Travis Britt, Bastrop; Casey Crabtree, Randall; Jessica Escobar, Travis; Sarah Franklin, Atascosa; Steven Hayes, Parker; DeLinda Hicklen, Terry; Colt Hoffmann, Falls; Rob Hughes, Angelina; Preston Ingram, Hopkins; Kristen Lambrecht, Montgomery; Michael Lawrence, Lamb; Sara Lemoine Knox, Coleman; Cassidy Martin, Jones; Matthew Okeson, Dallas; Liza Parker, Bell; James Plyler, Travis; Katy Slough, Hansford; Seth Sowder, Lamb; Matt Thomas, Hill; James Uhl, Schleicher; John Van de Pol, Lamb; Robert Ward, Fort Bend; Leanne Wiley, Austin; and Travis Wilson, Wise.

For more information about the TALL program, visit <https://tall.tamu.edu>.

SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual
Celebrate Cotton Game
Saturday, Sept. 15
3 p.m.
Texas Tech Red Raiders
University of Houston



Cotton Industry Seeks Volunteer Leaders

Friday, June 1, 2018

By Shawn Wade

The success of the High Plains cotton industry, like any group effort, is directly tied to the willingness of qualified individuals to volunteer to serve in various leadership positions. To identify these volunteers, the High Plains cotton industry caucuses each year with other cotton groups within Texas to identify producers interested in serving as a volunteer leader.

PCG encourages all qualified individuals interested in representing the High Plains as a representative to the Cotton Board, National Cotton Council, or Cotton Incorporated to contact PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett for more information.

Each year, a variety of volunteer positions within the NCC and Cotton Incorporated are filled directly through the industry's caucus process. In addition to naming representatives to the NCC and Cotton Incorporated, PCG and the Texas cotton industry also work together to identify and nominate qualified individuals to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for possible appointment as a Member or Alternate on the Cotton Board.

Qualified individuals interested in serving on the Cotton Board, which oversees the highly successful U.S. Cotton Research & Promotion Program, also are encouraged to contact Verett at the PCG office in Lubbock to request additional information. PCG's telephone number is 806-792-4904.

To be a qualified producer nominee for the Cotton Board, an individual should be actively engaged in cotton production at the time of nomination, be committed to the mission of the Cotton Board and the Cotton Research and Promotion Program and have demonstrated leadership skills and experience.

"Whether it is a nomination to serve on the Cotton Board or appointment to a leadership position within the National Cotton Council or Cotton Incorporated, the membership of Plains Cotton Growers has proven to be fertile ground for leaders within our industry," Verett said. "Our industry owes much to the dedicated men and women who step forward to serve their fellow producers. We look forward to extending that tradition of leadership in the years ahead."

Editor's Note: The Cotton Board seeks to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for all those who qualify for nomination and appointment to the Cotton Board regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, disability, socio-economic status, religion or sexual orientation.

Editor's Note:

"Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 41-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to U.S. all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org