

SPIDER MITES- PEST STATUS- MID-SOUTH REGION**Angus L. Catchot****Mississippi State University****Starkville, MS****Gus Lorenz****University of Arkansas****Fayetteville, AR****Scott Stewart****The University of Tennessee****Jackson, TN****Ralph Bagwell****LSU AgCenter****Winnsboro, LA****John F. Smith****Mississippi State University****Starkville, MS****Jeff Gore****Don R. Cook****Mississippi State University****Stoneville, MS****Abstract**

Twospotted spider mites, *Tetranychus urticae*, have been reported as pest of cotton as long as records have been kept. However, since 2004 spider mite infestations in cotton throughout the mid-south region have become more frequent and more severe. Prior to 2005 spider mite infestations tended to occur late in the growing season. Prior to 2005, spider mites were often referred to as “late season or cutout pest” in the mid-south region. Since that time spider mite infestations are occurring much earlier in the growing season in some geographic areas requiring treatments as early as one leaf cotton in some situations. In 2004, the mid-south spent an average of \$1.56 per acre of cotton on spider mite control. In 2007, that number had increased to \$8.23 per acre of cotton, \$5.27 per acre more than the national average (Williams, 2005, 2008). Over the last four years Mississippi has treated from 24-35% of the acres planted to control this pest (Fig. 1). In fact, spider mites have ranked as the number three pest in Mississippi in bales lost since 2005.

References

Williams, Mike. 2005. Cotton Insect Loss Estimates, pp. 1105-1160. In Proc. Beltwide Cotton Conf. National Cotton Council, Memphis, TN.

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