

**TEXAS ROOT ROT (*PHYMATOTRICHOPSIS OMNIVORA*) CONTROL WITH TOPGUARD®
FUNGICIDE
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Abstract

Texas Root Rot is a serious disease of cotton that causes plants to suddenly wilt and die, resulting in dramatically lower yield, low-quality immature fiber, and reduced harvest efficiency. TOPGUARD Fungicide is the only effective control method available. TOPGUARD was available to Texas cotton growers under a Section 18 in 2012. Trials were designed to evaluate the crop safety and Texas Root Rot efficacy of TOPGUARD at 1 and 2 pts/A using T-band and banded applications under sprinkler irrigation. For the T-band method, TOPGUARD was applied in a 3-5" band while the furrow was open. For the banded method, TOPGUARD was applied in a 3-5" band behind the planter. Both methods were highly effective. In one trial, the 1 pt/A T-band rate had more dead plants than the 2 pt/A rate by the end of the season, which was consistent with observations from the Section 18 commercial fields. The 2 pt/A T-band resulted in 28 and 78% yield improvement compared to the untreated in the two trials. In one trial, the 2 pt/A T-band treatment reduced emergence at 5 days after planting when the plants were just emerging, but there were no differences in emerged plants among the treatments at 7 and 10 days after planting. All TOPGUARD treatments provided excellent Texas Root Rot control, resulting in substantial and significant yield improvement with good crop safety. A Section 18 has been approved for TOPGUARD in Texas cotton for 2013.