

EFFECT OF PLANTING DATE ON COTTON GROWTH, YIELD, AND FIBER QUALITY

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Abstract

Maximizing lint yield is dependent on picking a variety that is adapted to the growing environment. The presence of four-bract squares indicate boll shedding and potential yield loss; however it is not known if planting date has any affect on the percentage present during the growing season. Therefore, a field study was conducted to investigate variety by planting date interactions on lint yield, fiber quality, and four-bract squares. Six newly released cultivars were planted in four-row plots on three planting dates. The percentages of four-bract squares were recorded 60 days after emergence. Results showed lint yields were highest on the May 1st planting and appeared to decrease with later planting dates. Fiber strength was highest at the first planting, while fiber length was higher in the second and third planting. In conclusion, May 1st appeared to be the optimum planting date in 2012 except for DP1219, which preferred April 15th.