

## THE EFFECT OF VERTICILLIUM WILT ON VARIETIES IN THE SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS OF TEXAS

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### Abstract

Verticillium wilt causes substantial problems in the southern High Plains of Texas. Using varieties that have lower wilt and defoliation ratings, and higher yields in *Verticillium dahliae* infested fields are recommended. Small plot variety trials were conducted in fields with a history of Verticillium wilt. Varieties that performed well in terms of lint yield, wilt and defoliation ratings were: Fibermax (FM) 2484B2F, FM 2989GB2, FM 1830GLT, FM 2322GL, NexGen 4111RF, CT 14515B2RF, and CT 13464B2RF. The acronym CT is the designation of experimental lines for DynaGro/All-Tex.

### Introduction

Verticillium wilt has been a problem in the southern High Plains of Texas since cotton was first irrigated in this region. Management of this disease requires an integrated approach (El-Zik, 1985), including using tolerant varieties, not wounding roots during the growing season, not over-watering, and crop rotation with non-hosts. Strong resistance to Verticillium wilt has not been identified in upland cotton, although some cotton varieties do tend to have better yields and less wilt in *V. dahliae* infested fields (Wheeler and Woodward, 2014). The objective of this work was to compare wilt ratings, defoliation rating, and yield across a number of commercial varieties and advanced breeding lines.

### Materials and Methods

Small plot variety trials were conducted in five locations in the Southern High Plains of Texas. Plots were 36 feet long and 2 rows wide (40-inch centers). There were 32 entries at each site, arranged in a randomized complete block design with four replications. At each site, Fibermax (FM) 2428B2F and FM 1980B2F were included as partially resistant checks, and Deltapine (DP) 0912B2RF as a susceptible check. The site locations were Plainview and Floydada which were the most northern sites, Ropesville and Slaton, which were in the middle of the Southern High Plains and Seminole, which was the most southern site. An additional southern site was lost due to poor stands. At each site, two soil samples (16 cores/sample taken at a depth of 8-inches with a narrow bladed shovel) were taken to analyze for microsclerotia density of *V. dahliae* (Wheeler and Rowe, 1995). Varieties were planted at a rate of 4 seed/foot of row with a cone planter. All sites were irrigated with a center pivot except Slaton which was irrigated with subsurface drip in every other furrow. In addition to *V. dahliae*, the Ropesville site had low levels of root-knot nematode, and the Slaton site had moderate levels of root-knot nematode. Planting dates were 9 May (Seminole), 12 May (Floydada and Plainview), 15 May (Ropesville), and 2 June (Slaton). Harvest dates were 16 October (Seminole), 9 November (Slaton), 15 November (Ropesville), 25 November (Plainview), and 8 December (Floydada).

Data collection included plant stand on both planted rows for every plot; wilt incidence, defoliation rating; and harvest weight. Wilt incidence was obtained by counting the number of plants in each plot with symptoms of Verticillium wilt, and dividing by the total number of plants in the plot. Plots were rated several times in August, and the dates that were used in the analysis were: 20 August (Plainview), 21 August (Ropesville), 25 August (Seminole), 26 August (Floydada), and 28 August (Slaton). Defoliation ratings were made as follows: 0 = no defoliation, 1 = < 34% of the leaves were defoliated; 2 = 34 to 66% of the leaves were defoliated; and 3 = > 66% of leaves were defoliated. Each row of each plot was evaluated at each of about 10 paces/plot (20 measurements per plot). Measurements were then assigned a % defoliation as the midpoint of the range of each rating, and these were averaged to estimate a % defoliation for each plot. Defoliation was rated once for each site on: 15 Sept. Plainview, 16 Sept. for Floydada and Ropesville, and 29 Sept. for Slaton. Defoliation at Seminole appeared related to dry conditions, so that site was not rated. Yield was collected with a two-row cotton stripper, where the harvest weight

was obtained by placing the stripped cotton (trash, burrs, lint, seed, etc.) into a cage on load cells to obtain total harvest weight of the plot. Samples (approximately 1000 g) were taken of the harvested cotton and ginned to estimate turnout of lint and seed. A lint sample was sent for HVI analysis.

Analysis of the data (stands, wilt incidence, defoliation incidence, lbs of lint/acre) were done using the general linear models of SAS (version 9.3, SAS Institute, Cary, NC). Means separation were done using the Waller-Duncan k-ratio t-test ( $P=0.05$ ).

### **Results and Discussion**

The Floydada and Slaton sites had low levels of *V. dahliae* in the soil (2.5 and 2.25 microsclerotia (MS)/cm<sup>3</sup> soil; respectively) the Seminole site was intermediate (16 MS/cm<sup>3</sup> soil); and the Ropesville and Plainview sites had high densities of *V. dahliae* (48.5 and 35 MS/cm<sup>3</sup> soil, respectively). These densities tracked well with the incidence of wilt seen across the various sites and significance levels explained by variety (Tables 1-5).

Table 1. Results from a variety trial at Plainview under high Verticillium wilt pressure.

Variety <sup>a</sup>	Plants/ ft row	Wilt (%)	Defoliation (%)	Turnout (%)	Yield (lbs lint/a)
FM 2484B2F	3.12	21.6	21.8	31.0	1510
NG 4111RF	1.84	36.2	34.8	29.4	1337
BX 1538GLT	2.20	45.8	21.1	33.0	1280
FM 9180B2F	2.11	43.7	23.6	29.3	1265
CT 14515B2RF	2.48	23.4	22.7	29.2	1259
FM 1830GLT	2.00	28.4	18.3	31.0	1242
FM 9250GL	2.35	40.0	27.4	28.6	1238
FM 1944GLB2	2.57	32.5	24.3	28.4	1209
CT 13442B2RF	2.29	44.2	26.7	29.4	1130
FM 2011GT	2.14	31.0	28.9	28.9	1122
CT 13464B2RF	2.43	25.5	21.1	27.9	1113
FM 2334GLT	1.49	22.8	19.5	26.7	1098
DP 0912B2RF	2.15	34.5	31.1	31.5	1045
BX 1539GLT	1.81	51.7	26.0	26.7	989
DP 1410B2RF	2.35	29.0	29.1	29.5	975
DP 1311B2RF	1.86	31.9	16.7	24.7	974
NG 2051B2RF	2.44	32.0	34.4	26.7	971
PHY 333WRF	2.62	34.1	36.6	26.3	948
FM 1320GL	1.54	37.6	23.9	27.0	941
PHY 222WRF	2.54	29.1	28.8	24.8	910
PHY 339WRF	2.24	38.8	22.6	26.2	910
NG 3306B2RF	2.09	44.1	33.7	27.2	870
PX 2034-03WRF	2.72	31.7	31.1	24.7	869
CT 14944RF	1.60	52.6	26.5	30.6	826
NG 1511B2RF	2.23	30.5	34.3	29.9	810
DP 1321B2RF	1.94	41.4	34.7	27.0	810
CT 13014RF	1.34	54.4	35.3	28.8	792
DP 1137B2RF	2.15	52.3	42.4	26.9	789
DP 1219B2RF	1.51	35.9	22.8	24.8	779
ST 5032GLT	2.74	38.1	42.1	27.7	775
DP 1212B2RF	1.97	41.6	50.7	26.1	701
CT 14923RF	1.32	60.3	49.9	28.2	434
MSD(0.05) <sup>b</sup>	0.38	9.6	8.1	3.5	126

<sup>a</sup>BX = breeding line from Bayer CropSciences; CT = breeding line from All-Tex/DynaGro; DP = Deltapine; FM = FiberMax; NG = NexGen; PHY = Phytogen; PX = breeding line from Phytogen; ST = Stoneville.

<sup>b</sup>MSD (0.05) is the minimum significant difference between entries at  $P=0.05$ .

Table 2. Results from a variety trial at Floydada under low *Verticillium* wilt pressure.

Variety <sup>a</sup>	Plants/ ft row	Wilt (%)	Defoliation (%)	Turnout (%)	Yield (lbs lint/a)
FM 2322GL	1.59	6.0	2.1	29.0	1214
FM 2484B2F	2.16	6.5	4.4	30.4	1207
FM 2011GT	2.11	6.8	8.9	30.0	1163
PX 2042-02WRF	2.49	6.1	12.0	27.3	1085
NG 4111RF	1.44	6.9	9.3	28.1	1043
FM 2989GLB2F	2.00	7.0	4.3	26.2	1031
PHY 222WRF	2.28	3.7	14.1	27.2	1029
DP 1410B2RF	2.45	3.5	5.6	26.3	1015
FM 1320GL	1.38	9.8	9.3	28.1	1014
FM 9250GL	1.79	7.2	8.5	26.9	997
PX 2034-03WRF	2.75	6.0	9.3	25.1	993
FM 9180B2F	1.68	6.4	10.3	27.6	992
FM 2334GLT	1.56	4.5	5.2	28.4	950
BX 1538GLT	1.86	8.5	12.4	28.7	933
PHY 339WRF	1.71	5.3	12.2	27.7	919
PX 2033-03WRF	2.61	6.8	10.8	21.9	886
NG 2051B2RF	1.68	5.7	7.7	21.9	880
DP 0912B2RF	1.79	7.2	10.8	28.2	878
PHY 333WRF	2.14	12.1	14.5	26.2	865
CT 13442B2RF	1.78	8.2	9.3	27.9	826
PHY 367WRF	1.48	5.1	15.1	24.7	811
DP 1212B2RF	1.58	7.6	14.5	27.1	804
NG 4012B2RF	1.51	8.2	7.8	24.0	796
BX 1539GLT	1.22	12.6	12.0	25.8	789
DP 1311B2RF	1.45	5.3	7.5	25.7	789
DP 1219B2RF	1.46	5.8	10.3	29.6	773
DP 1133B2RF	1.43	8.9	10.3	24.1	742
ST 5289GLT	1.49	4.4	8.3	26.0	731
NG 1511B2RF	1.58	3.6	12.8	25.2	681
CT 14944RF	1.07	6.4	13.9	30.6	670
NG 3306B2RF	1.50	8.9	17.0	22.2	633
PHY 499WRF	2.14	8.5	14.9	23.4	597
MSD(0.05) <sup>b</sup>	0.38	NS	6.0	NS	144

<sup>a</sup>BX = breeding line from Bayer CropSciences; CT = breeding line from All-Tex/DynaGro; DP = Deltapine; FM = FiberMax; NG = NexGen; PHY = Phytogen; PX = breeding line from Phytogen; ST = Stoneville.

<sup>b</sup>MSD(0.05) is the minimum significant difference between entries at  $P=0.05$ .

Table 3. Results from a variety trial at Ropesville under high Verticillium wilt pressure and low root-knot nematode pressure.

Variety <sup>a</sup>	Plants/ ft row	Wilt (%)	Defoliation (%)	RKN	Turnout (%)	Yield (lbs lint/a)
FM 2989GLB2	2.52	38.8	24.2	7410 ab	29.5	1,022
FM 2484B2F	2.76	32.8	23.4	4920 abc	26.7	1,010
NG 4111RF	2.06	30.7	31.7	1505 a-f	31.2	877
FM 1830GLT	1.72	28.3	21.1	5970 abc	27.1	874
CT 13464B2RF	2.68	43.8	24.4	1410 b-f	27.0	812
DP 1441RF	2.70	29.9	36.1	2820 a-f	28.1	804
ST 4747GLB2	2.76	31.2	30.4	3060 a-d	25.0	777
PHY 339WRF	2.14	28.9	34.2	9000 ab	30.0	771
FM 2011GT	2.73	45.5	44.0	420 c-f	24.3	748
FM 9180B2F	2.59	55.9	34.6	2310 a-e	26.4	721
FM 1320GL	1.44	30.7	36.7	1200 def	25.2	703
PX 2042-02WRF	2.83	41.1	41.5	1530 efg	20.7	688
DP 1410B2RF	2.80	35.7	37.8	10,050 a	25.3	664
ST 4946GLB2	2.80	30.4	49.9	795 c-f	27.0	664
PX 2034-03WRF	3.20	43.1	52.0	1410 b-f	24.4	660
PHY 367WRF	2.25	50.3	47.2	900 fg	28.2	658
BX 1539GLT	1.98	26.5	38.5	1150 a-f	26.3	639
FM 1944GLB2	2.75	35.4	36.3	1795 a-f	21.7	629
BX 1538GLT	2.45	49.1	37.1	2635 a-f	23.9	597
DP 1044B2RF	2.02	29.8	30.5	1290 a-f	25.0	575
PHY 417WRF	2.77	28.2	50.7	240 gh	24.8	549
PHY 222WRF	2.84	25.8	56.2	1560 a-f	24.3	544
DP 1219B2RF	1.83	36.1	29.0	3630 a-f	23.0	542
PHY 427WRF	2.81	30.8	53.8	300 h	24.2	541
ST 5032GLT	2.70	26.3	48.4	4570 a-d	22.3	506
PHY 333WRF	2.84	33.6	61.2	1400 a-f	23.8	495
DP 0912B2RF	2.45	33.3	41.9	1050 b-f	22.7	494
CT 13014RF	1.89	31.4	52.2	4140 abc	29.9	468
DP 1137B2RF	1.68	34.8	39.1	3630 a-e	25.0	453
DP 1321B2RF	2.30	35.7	48.0	1920 a-f	17.5	403
PHY 495W3RF	2.51	48.9	50.3	950 b-f	21.1	386
CT 14923RF	1.99	36.4	69.1	1620 efg	24.3	259
MSD(0.05)	0.30	11.7	13.9		5.2	140

<sup>a</sup>BX = breeding line from Bayer CropSciences; CT = breeding line from All-Tex/DynaGro; DP = Deltapine; FM = FiberMax; NG = NexGen; PHY = Phytogen; PX = breeding line from Phytogen; ST = Stoneville.

<sup>b</sup>MSD(0.05) is the minimum significant difference between entries at  $P=0.05$ .

<sup>c</sup>Nematode counts (RKN) were transformed with LOG10 and mean separation tests were based on the transformed values. Entries with the same letters are not significantly ( $P=0.05$ ) different.

Table 4. Results from a variety trial at Slaton under low *Verticillium* wilt pressure and moderate root-knot nematode pressure.

Variety <sup>a</sup>	Plants /ft row	Wilt (%)	Defol (%)	RKN <sup>c</sup>	Turn out (%)	Yield Lbs lint/a	Loan (\$/lb)	Yield X Loan (\$/acre)
FM 2011GT	2.79	4.6	11.4	6390 ab	32.8	1832	0.560	1026
DP 1311B2RF	2.46	11.1	18.0	2590 abc	32.4	1744	0.539	940
ST 4946GLB2	2.92	9.0	31.5	1500 abc	30.6	1637	0.521	853
FM 2484B2F	2.96	8.9	5.4	7440 ab	29.9	1514	0.562	850
DP 0912B2RF	2.74	14.2	26.5	8975 ab	31.7	1573	0.539	848
ST 4747GLB2	3.14	7.6	18.7	13,895 abc	29.2	1576	0.533	840
PHY 367WRF	2.69	7.4	24.5	3575 abc	28.0	1475	0.560	826
DP 1212B2RF	2.75	14.2	49.6	4730 abc	30.9	1460	0.561	819
CT 14515B2RF	2.82	7.1	16.0	23,590 a	28.9	1484	0.547	812
FM 9250GL	2.83	8.0	31.3	6530 ab	29.2	1511	0.536	810
NG 3306B2RF	2.53	16.9	33.2	9140 ab	29.6	1407	0.574	808
DP 1321B2RF	2.51	13.7	36.1	6780 abc	32.0	1434	0.562	806
FM 1320GL	2.23	9.1	40.7	5355 ab	31.1	1422	0.562	799
BX 1538GLT	2.58	15.3	28.8	5010 abc	33.8	1518	0.524	796
PX 2033-03WRF	3.05	11.8	23.8	4145 ab	29.9	1434	0.546	783
FM 2334GLT	2.26	7.9	8.5	13,920 ab	30.7	1344	0.581	780
NG 1511B2RF	2.65	13.8	42.2	9210 ab	32.4	1424	0.544	775
DP 1133B2RF	2.75	12.7	21.5	4215 abc	27.3	1342	0.563	755
NG 4111RF	2.49	9.8	25.1	8760 ab	29.8	1318	0.572	754
FM 2322GL	2.50	6.9	12.8	4350 ab	29.8	1410	0.535	753
PHY 417WRF	3.00	11.6	30.7	200 c	30.2	1445	0.521	752
DP 1410B2RF	3.00	11.0	9.1	9450 ab	29.0	1364	0.543	740
FM 9180B2F	2.64	14.2	18.6	13,650 ab	30.2	1310	0.564	738
BX 1539GLT	2.24	21.4	16.8	6120 ab	31.0	1276	0.537	685
PHY 499WRF	2.88	12.5	38.0	5100 ab	30.3	1328	0.506	672
PHY 222WRF	2.84	12.3	42.8	2750 bc	27.2	1226	0.545	668
PX 2042-02WRF	3.06	08.3	20.3	3270 ab	23.7	1265	0.527	667
DP 1044B2RF	2.48	12.8	16.2	4415 abc	27.4	1251	0.520	651
FM 8270GLB2	2.82	9.0	29.9	8280 ab	27.9	1149	0.564	648
CT 13442B2RF	2.46	16.7	22.8	3450 ab	30.6	1147	0.564	647
PHY 495W3RF	3.00	13.7	41.5	6220 ab	30.1	1247	0.488	608
NG 2051B2RF	2.64	7.8	32.0	9565 ab	26.3	1141	0.523	596
MSD(0.05)	0.27	6.8	12.1		2.04	223	0.039	121

<sup>a</sup>BX = breeding line from Bayer CropSciences; CT = breeding line from All-Tex/DynaGro; DP = Deltapine; FM = FiberMax; NG = NexGen; PHY = Phytogen; PX = breeding line from Phytogen; ST = Stoneville.

<sup>b</sup>MSD(0.05) is the minimum significant difference between entries at  $P=0.05$ .

<sup>c</sup>Root-knot nematode/500 cm<sup>3</sup> soil were transformed with LOG10 and mean separation tests were based on the transformed values. Entries with the same letters are not significantly ( $P=0.05$ ) different.

Table 5. Results from a variety trial at Seminole under moderate Verticillium wilt pressure.

Variety <sup>a</sup>	Plants/ ft row	Wilt (%)	Turnout (%)	Yield (lbs lint/a)	Loan (\$/lb)	Yield X Loan (\$/acre)
CT 14515B2RF	2.07	29.0	32.0	1467	0.541	794
FM 1830GLT	1.82	30.4	36.1	1463	0.539	788
FM 2484B2F	2.34	17.2	32.0	1416	0.537	761
CT 14944RF	1.54	43.1	36.9	1348	0.564	760
DP 1441RF	2.25	35.1	32.7	1451	0.522	757
DP 1454NRB2RF	1.56	34.1	33.9	1295	0.570	738
DP 1359B2RF	2.19	32.9	33.2	1302	0.558	726
CT 13014RF	1.69	37.0	35.1	1286	0.553	711
DP 1311B2RF	1.50	28.8	32.7	1269	0.558	708
ST 6448GLB2	1.78	31.7	33.1	1230	0.575	707
NG 5315B2RF	1.45	54.1	32.5	1196	0.578	691
DP 1252B2RF	1.25	49.3	36.0	1176	0.574	675
FM 1944GLB2	2.11	26.2	29.6	1292	0.519	670
DP 1321B2RF	2.02	26.6	31.9	1207	0.547	659
FM 9180B2F	2.07	31.5	28.7	1227	0.528	648
BX 1538GLT	1.85	40.2	31.9	1271	0.508	646
DP 0912B2RF	2.28	26.7	31.4	1241	0.516	640
PX 2034-03WRF	2.56	27.0	27.5	1262	0.506	638
DP 1137B2RF	1.78	35.1	31.2	1123	0.564	633
CT 13464B2RF	2.08	16.9	31.7	1303	0.485	632
NG 4012B2RF	1.75	30.0	30.6	1141	0.552	629
FM 1320GL	1.62	20.6	32.5	1202	0.521	626
ST 5289GLT	1.77	30.1	33.0	1178	0.524	617
DP 1044B2RF	2.02	29.8	30.9	1183	0.504	597
ST 4747GLB2	2.42	16.3	29.2	1305	0.452	590
PHY 575WRF	1.99	56.8	28.4	1153	0.510	588
PHY 599WRF	1.03	63.8	30.9	1084	0.532	577
PHY 367WRF	1.75	35.3	29.3	1222	0.468	572
CT 14923RF	1.65	48.9	31.8	1085	0.517	561
PHY 427WRF	2.08	28.2	28.7	1126	0.483	544
PHY 417WRF	2.41	24.3	30.0	1146	0.474	543
FM 8270GLB2	2.38	12.5	27.8	1014	0.491	497
MSD(0.05) <sup>b</sup>	0.32	17.1	2.2	184	0.054	88

<sup>a</sup>BX = breeding line from Bayer CropSciences; CT = breeding line from All-Tex/DynaGro;

DP = Deltapine; FM = FiberMax; NG = NexGen; PHY = Phytogen; PX = breeding line from Phytogen; ST = Stoneville.

<sup>b</sup>MSD(0.05) is the minimum significant difference between entries at  $P=0.05$ .

The partially resistant check variety FM 2484B2F was among the greatest yielding (ranked between 1 and 4 at all sites) varieties across all the sites, as well as having among the least wilt and defoliation. Other varieties that consistently performed well across all the measured categories included NexGen 4111RF, FM 2989GLB2, and new varieties (in 2014) FM 2322GL, FM 1830GLT, CT 14515B2RF and CT 13464B2RF. The CT designation is for experimental lines for DynaGro/All-Tex.

### Summary

Verticillium wilt when present, is a strong driving factor that influences yield. Some varieties consistently perform better in Verticillium fields and should be planted when producers anticipate Verticillium wilt problems. While no new variety is consistently performing at a higher level than the recommended check, FM 2484B2F, there were at

least three new varieties/breeding lines introduced in 2014 that appeared to perform consistently well in Verticillium wilt fields (FM 2322GL, FM 1830GLT, and CT 14515B2RF).

#### **Acknowledgements**

We want to thank the organizations that funded this work including Texas Cotton State Support, NIFA Southern Regional IPM program, Cotton Foundation; the contributing seed companies, Americot; Bayer CropSciences; Dow AgroSciences, DynaGro/All-Tex, and Monsanto, and the participating cotton producers: Glen Schur, Ron Graves, Chris Bednarz, Larry Smith, Ronny Thornton, and Larry Day.

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