PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR SEEDING RATES STUDIES IN COTTON IN SOUTH ALABAMA

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Abstract

Seeding rate trials were established at the Brewton Research Unit (BRU) and at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center (WREC) in Brewton and Headland, AL, respectively. Targeted seeding rates were 1.0, 1.2, 1.5, 1.7, 2.0, 2.4, and 3.0 seed/ft; stated differently, the intent was to plant one seed every 12, 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, and 4 inches, respectively. Row spacing was 36 inches. At BRU, both a traditional planter (sprockets and chains) and hand thinning were used to establish populations; at WREC, plots were planted with a John Deere 7100 with Precision eSet. Two varieties, DP 2055 B3XF and PHY 400 W3FE, were planted at each location. We observed differences in % of targeted stand depending on seeding rates, variety and location. At the higher seeding densities, percent of targeted stands ranged from about 80 to 90 percent. The Precision eSet planted did not achieve populations below 1.3 plants/ft. There were few differences in growth measurements based on seeding rate, though the DP variety was taller at both locations. Yields at BRU were affected by late season storms. Overall, there were few yield differences among the various seeding rates.