

**SECOND YEAR RESULTS FOR 48-INCH ROW SPACING IN COTTON IN SOUTH ALABAMA**

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**Abstract**

Trials were established in 2020-21 at the Brewton Research Unit (BRU), Brewton, AL, and the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center (WREC), Headland, AL, to evaluate the performance of cotton planted in 48-inch rows. Two varieties, DP 2055 B3XF and PHY 400 W3FE, were planted in 48-in and standard (36-inch) row spacings and managed with 3 PGR regimens, aggressive, moderate and untreated. Cotton was produced in a conservation system that included a cover crop and in-row tillage corresponding to the row spacing. Over the course of the two years, there were few differences in plant growth between the two spacings, except that plant heights in the wide row system tended to be taller. Stand counts were significantly higher with PHY 400 W3FE, while DP 2055 B3XF was the taller of the two varieties. Yields were comparable for both row spacings in three of four site years. In 2021 at WREC, there was a row spacing by variety interaction in which PHY 400 W3FE yields were significantly lower than all other treatments. That yields were not sacrificed in 48-inch rows is encouraging. Wide rows provide a possibility of 1) reduced seed costs, 2) improved endurance of mid-season drought stresses, 3) improved late season air movement within the canopy and perhaps reduced hard lock and boll rot, and 4) reduced picker costs.