

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DISEASE
PROBLEMS COMMITTEE - 1997
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Seedling Disease

Alabama

William S. Gasaway - Unfavorable weather conditions from mid April through May led to problems in getting a good stand of cotton in both North and Central Alabama. Ascochyta blight was unusually severe, particularly in North Alabama. It was responsible for stand losses in North Alabama due to the prolonged wet, cold weather that persisted for much of the spring. Seedlings were actually killed by the disease. In two northern counties (Limestone and Madison), only 20 thousand of the 100 thousand acres survived. Pythium seedling disease was predominant due to cool, wet weather. In the southern half of the state, seedling disease was not a severe problem although some Rhizoctonia was seen scattered on some of the older plants.

Boll Rot

Tennessee

A. Y. Chambers - (Boll Rot Situation in 1997). Boll rot caused sizable losses for Tennessee cotton producers in 1997. Losses were estimated at 3 percent which is less than the estimate of 4 percent for 1996 and the same as the estimate of 3 percent for 1995. Weather conditions for harvesting were optimum for most of the fall. Rain hindered harvesting some at the end of the season. Insect injury was greater than it had been for a number of years; numbers of openings for entry of disease organisms were, therefore, greatly increased with increased rot of insect-damaged bolls. More and more growers each year are using Pix plant growth regulator as a standard practice to control plant size. Reduced plant size has helped greatly in reducing boll rot incidence and severity.