PUBLIC COTTON BREEDING EFFORTS IN THE MID-SOUTH: DISEASE RESISTANCE

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Abstract

Perhaps Table 1 is indicative of current cotton breeding efforts for development of disease resistance in new germplasm by public agencies. I am sure that it may not be all inclusive, yet showing a trend toward reduced activity over that of past years. The decreased activity or complete elimination of some public agency long-term cotton breeding or applied genetics programs may have adversely affect in some ways bridging the gap between the fundamentals and the objectives of private agencies. Of course, "Publish or Perish" philosophies and short-term grant funding have encouraged this direction. However, it was refreshing to note during the recent Cotton Breeder's Tour remarks directed toward possible re-establishment of the former S-77 type of Cooperative Research efforts. With the advent of transgenics, conventional and basic breeding and germplasm development are still the main sources of transgenic fodder.

Table 1. Current status of public sector cotton breeding efforts with activities in disease resistance.

State	Location	Disease	Personnel
Missouri		Discontinued	
Arkansas	Keiser	Bacterial blight Seed/seedling Verticillium wilt Root knot nematode	F. Bourland
Mississippi	Miss. State	Root knot nematode	R. Creech (MSU) J. Jenkins (USDA)
Louisiana	LAES - Red River Res. Stn. Bossier City	Root knot nematode and Fusarium wilt	P. Colyer D. Caldwell G. Myers
	LAES Agric. Center Baton Rouge	Reniform nematode	E. McGawley C. Overstreet G. Myers

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