

**BG 4740 AND ST 373: NEW COTTON VARIETIES  
FROM STONEVILLE PEDIGREED SEED  
COMPANY**

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**Abstract**

Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company, subsidiary of the Monsanto Company, is announcing the release of two new cotton varieties: BG 4740 and ST 373.

BG 4740 is a transgenic variety that contains the patented BXN® gene, which confers resistance to the herbicide Buctril®, a product of Rhone-Poulenc, and the Bollgard™ gene, a patented gene from Monsanto which confers tolerance to damage by certain heliothine pests, such as cotton bollworm and tobacco budworm. Buctril® provides excellent control of many annual broadleaf weeds including cocklebur, morningglory, velvetleaf, and hemp sesbania. Federal approval and registration for the use of Buctril® on cotton carrying the BXN® gene is pending.

BG 4740 is an early maturity variety with excellent adaptation across the Cotton Belt. Developed from a backcrossing process with ST 474, the industry's highest yielding variety, BG 4740 is similar to ST 474 in fiber properties and lint yield; but is distinct from ST 474 in that it exhibits a more compact plant type. In replicated yield evaluations across 9 Mid-South and Southwest locations in 1997, BG 4740 has exhibited yield and fiber performance equal to ST474. Because of the its superior yield performance and Bollgard protection, BG 4740 is an excellent choice for both moderate to heavy bollworm/budworm infestations. Additionally, if federal approval is granted, growers can obtain superior weed control with over-the-top applications of Buctril®. BG 4740 is available in large quantity for the 1998 growing season.

ST 373 is a new early smooth leaf variety with superior yield potential and premium fiber quality. In evaluations across six Mid-South states and three years (1995-1997), ST 373 demonstrated a significant yield advantage over ST 474, the most widely planted non-transgenic picker variety in the Cotton Belt. In addition, ST 373 has exhibited micronaire values of approximately 0.5 units less than ST 474 and plant maturity ratings slightly earlier than ST 474. The primary zones of adaptation for ST 373 are the northern halves of the Mid-South and Southeast cotton belts, and the Coastal Bend of eastern Texas. Supply of ST 373 will be limited for 1998.