

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DISEASE
PROBLEMS COMMITTEE - 2000
Compiled by W. E. Batson, Jr., Chairman
Plant Pathologist, Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS**

Alabama

W. S. Gasaway - Premature defoliation from fungal leafspots was a problem this year. This early leafspot occurrence was believed to be brought about by the severe drought that might have contributed to nutrient deficiencies. Some bronze wilt on Paymaster varieties primarily was also reported. Reniform nematode continues to be our most serious problem. The nematode appears to be spreading throughout the northern section of the state (i.e., Tennessee Valley) as well as central Alabama. Many diseases such as boll rots were suppressed as a result of the drought which was the major factor in reduced yields across the state.

Alabama

Kathy McLean - Drought was the main problem with the cotton crop in Alabama in 2000. Boll rot was very limited except in two fields where growers were irrigating and they were unlucky enough to catch a heavy rain. Traces of bronze wilt were observed but the drought superseded the wilt effects. Several samples of bolls from various areas of the state were inspected for the "seed rot" syndrome with only traces identified.

Mississippi

W. E. Batson - Boll rot occurrence was generally low in Mississippi except in sections of Lauderdale county where untimely heavy rains and high winds caused cotton to lodge. Many bolls in these fields were lost to *Fusarium* spp.