

SPIDER MITES ON COTTON IN THE MIDSOUTH

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Abstract

We are in the process of writing an short publication on spider mites in the Midsouth with cotton growers as our audience. It is based on 3 years of research on spider mites in cotton fields in Arkansas. The scope of the publication will cover the following areas. First, a weekly sampling project in 2 cotton fields for 2 years to determine when and how spider mites entered fields with a long history of mite infestations. Second, a 2-year sampling project to determine what weed species supported early season spider mites. Identification of these weed hosts could lead to reductions in mite infestations in cotton by controlling weeds adjacent to cotton. Third, 3 years of field-testing acaricides and other pesticides for control of spider mites. Fourth, general aspects of spider mite biology, natural enemies, and damage to cotton will be covered. We hope to publish this in time for the 2001 season.