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PLANT GROWTH AND YIELD RESPONSE TO TRIMAX INSECTICIDE IN THE EAST MISSISSIPPI DELTA

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Abstract

TRIMAX™ Cotton Insecticide is a new imidacloprid insecticide from Bayer CropScience registered specifically for use on cotton. Previous research has shown that TRIMAX provides excellent control of the major piercing/sucking insect pests in cotton. Improved cotton plant health and lint yield increases beyond that resulting from insect control alone have been observed following TRIMAX applications. Replicated small plot trials and large scale consultant field demonstrations with TRIMAX cotton insecticide were conducted throughout the cotton growing region of the eastern Mississippi Delta in 2002 in order to validate these previous findings with TRIMAX insecticide. 2002 results from these trials show an overall trend for improved plant health following multiple TRIMAX applications made during the squaring period of plant development. In general, these effects include improved square and boll retention, increased plant height and increased canopy development. A trend of increased square retention at each fruiting position on a fruiting branch and increased retention by fruiting branch location on the plant was observable. Along with improved plant health, lint cotton yields in many of these trials and demonstrations were increased from TRIMAX application compared to other insecticide treatments used or compared to an untreated control.