

# Cotton Jassid: A New Threat to U.S. Cotton

The **cotton jassid** (*Amrasca biguttula*), also known as the two-spot cotton leafhopper, has recently emerged as a serious pest in U.S. cotton production. This insect, native to Asia, feeds on the undersides of leaves and causes “**hopperburn**”—yellowing, curling, and browning of leaves. Severe infestations can reduce yields by **up to 50%** in cotton, okra, eggplant, and other crops.

## Where Has Cotton Jassid Been Found?

- **Florida**—First confirmed U.S. detections in December 2024; established across multiple counties.
- **Georgia**—Confirmed in cotton in 2025, with [UGA Extension providing regular updates](#).
- **Alabama**—Detected in **July 2025** across many counties including Autauga, Baldwin, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and others. Extension urges growers to scout fields and report finds ([Alabama Extension Update](#)).
- **South Carolina**—Populations detected in southern counties; reports include damaging levels on okra with more than 100 insects per leaf ([UGA Colquitt County Ag Report](#)).
- **North Carolina**—As of early September 2025, no confirmed detections have been reported, but Extension recommends vigilance
- **Nursery Stock Pathway**—Infested hibiscus plants have been found at big box retail outlets in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, raising concerns about spread through commercial plant movement.

## Why Should Producers Be Concerned?

- Cotton jassid is small and hard to detect directly; plant injury is often noticed first.
- It has already spread rapidly across the **Southeast cotton belt**.
- Once established, it can be difficult to manage, particularly given its ability to survive on a wide range of host plants.

## National Coordination Efforts

The **National Cotton Council**, in coordination with **USDA APHIS**, university entomologists, and state/regional producer organizations, is actively working on monitoring, identification, and management strategies.

## What Should Producers Do?

1. **Scout fields weekly** for symptoms of hopperburn.
2. **Report suspected infestations immediately** to your state **department of agriculture**.
3. Be cautious with **nursery plants** that could harbor the pest.
4. Stay updated through your local Extension office.

## Resources for Producers:

- [UGA Extension Cotton Jassid Agent Update \(Sept. 1, 2025\)](#)
- [Alabama Extension Update](#)
- [South Carolina/Georgia Ag Report](#)
- [USDA APHIS CAPS Screening Aid](#)
- [Florida FDACS Pest Alert PDF](#)

