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WEST TEXAS COTTON POTENTIAL AUG '04

DURING AUGUST consider some facts about cotton in W. TX.

FACTS:

Most Cotton is in the stage of maximum per day fruit set potential;
PLANTS are RAPIDLY APPROACHING GENETIC CUT OUT

a. there is maximum need for plant nutrients (especially N) & water
b. RESEARCH shows wate produces 3 to 7 times more fruit with balanced balanced nutrients than when hungry especially for NITROGEN.
c. W. TX has the best light intensity of the entire cotton belt. Sun on all the leaves IS NECESSARY TO PRODUCE the photosynthates necessary for boll production ; ESPECIALLY CARBOHYDRATES (sugars).

1. COTTON NEEDS about 10 lb/ac of ACTUAL N and same of K with lesser amounts of P and other minerals and micronutrients for balanced nutrution. *** PHOSPHATE IN THE SAP indicates the degree of root activity essential for water and nutrient up-take efficiency

   FOR MAXMIUM DAILY POTENTIAL OF BOLL PRODUCTION

2. ***EVALUATE COTTON PRODUCTION POTENTIAL***
   - 10 - 15 bolls per foot of row can produce a bale of lint (row width & spacing are factors)
   - 5 or more blooms/row foot can occur -COUNTS CAN SHOW POTENTIAL EACH DAY
   - STICKING & devloping bolls is dependent on balanced nutrition and water.
   - CHECK locks 4 or 5 / boll? AND seed in a lock - 9 or less? Genetic Potential 5 & 9. An extra lock can be a 25% increase in yield? More seed = more lint?

3. MAJORITY OF CROP COST ALREADY INVESTED! For about 3 to 5 lbs/ac of lint invested in Petiole Testing (ask the plant) and the needed Plant Foot (foliar or in water) can give 3 - 10 times return on investment, ***better than Las Vegas ODDS?*** Boll or bloom counts weekly evaluates potential and progress.

   - An average field is usually about 40-60 acres for a sample site – Petiole Program testing costs about 1 lb/ac of lint (add 1/2 lb of full service sampling) with Plant Food costing about 4-6 lb/lint/ac/wk. ***Count blooms/bolls per foot of row to evaluate!.***
   - Late season petiole costs are reduced as only NO_3 & PO_4 tests are needed as M & M (minerals & micronutrients) needs have been established.
   - Initial late season tests should start with the full test and the only N & P.

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