

GROWING SEASON - 1965

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This a discussion of the growing season for the whole state. In a very general way it serves as a quick reference to the influence of our environment on the cotton crop.

Except for occasional warming periods, the early season (April 1 to June 1) was unseasonably cool. Cold rains and cool weather retarded germination and development of seedlings. In many instances the crop had to be replanted. The seedlings which did survive were underdeveloped and very susceptible to the "damping-off" disease and insect damage.

The mid-season weather was normal with respect to daytime temperatures. However, cool nights persisted throughout much of the summer. The rainfall was very much below normal.

The mid-season was further characterized by the incidence of cotton rust in many areas of the state. Anywhere from one to several spore "showers" occurred causing in some instances complete defoliation of the crop and abandonment of the field.

The end of the season had above normal temperatures and the warm period extended to approximately the 15th of November. The night temperatures remained relatively high for this period. As a result, much of the late season crop was able to mature.

The end of the season rains have made it very difficult to get the second picking out of the field. In fact, due to the 4-5 inches of rainfall in December approximately 25 percent of the estimated crop remained in the field at the first of the year (1966).