

SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES FOR COTTON ARE HERE TO STAY

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Cotton growers are faced with many problems which can extend their growing season late in the fall. Bad weather can stop early harvest and delay plowing. The pink bollworm threat is a reality and farmers must do every possible thing to produce their cotton early and harvest early. The use of systemic insecticides at planting time has been on the increase for several years. New materials are appearing on the market each year and must be shown to growers for their evaluation.

A demonstration was located on the Fred Enke farm, near Maricopa, to determine if there was a difference in some of the systemic granular insecticides that are applied. Some years growers may get a better response from one material than another. Weather and growing conditions often determine if the full value of the systemic is obtained during the first seedling stage of young cotton plants.

Methods

Three systemic insecticides were applied at the rate of 10 lbs./acre, 10% granulars. The three materials were Thimet, Disyston and Timik. The planting pattern was plant two and skip one. All three materials were replicated eight times. Each replica was two rows of each material. The materials were compared against each other for insect control and plant response.

Conclusions and Results

The materials were checked for insect counts and plant response at three different intervals. Checks were made to see if square counts and bloom counts varied from each material used. At no time was there a visible difference in insect control or plant growth. All materials did an equal job of controlling seedling plots, such as thrips, aphids. In past years a new experimental material of Union Carbide gave an added response of growth and a longer insect control period. It is certainly evident that the use of systemic insecticides give the cotton plant a more healthy vigorous start which can aid in setting an early cotton crop. It is difficult to see a yield increase by their use, but it is easy to see an early flowering date and an early crop.

The crop of 1969 will certainly see an increased use of systemic insecticide by Pinal cotton growers.

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