

Current Use of Module Makers

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ABSTRACT

Moduling of cotton has increased strongly since its introduction in 1973. The usage is different from gin to gin due to a variety of conditions. However, the addition of moduling has reduced the pressure on ginning capacity so that some growers can continue using trailers without slowing the speed of the harvest.

INTRODUCTION

Moduling does provide advantages in efficiency of both harvesting and cotton ginning. Using 2 to 2-1/2 2-row pickers per module maker can increase field efficiency over trailer use. However, a larger advantage is the ability to store cotton in modules in the field or at the gin to avoid the harvesting delays that total trailer use has caused in the past.

Gins are able to schedule operations better, employ better crews, and save some of the time lost between unloading trailers and changes between ginnings of different customers' accounts during a day.

RESULTS

Use of module makers has increased a great deal since 1973 and ginning management approves strongly of the use of that storage method, but not all growers have switched. In a few situations, the use of moduling was reduced temporarily because of acreage reduction. Some farmers have not converted to moduling because their acreages were small and did not justify the purchase of a module maker. Other growers have sold small farms near residential areas and expect to cease farming soon and so have not purchased the compactors. Some growers have followed the practice of ginning trailers first and modules later; in some cases the farmers have been able to collect for the sale of trailered cotton before the modules, which are ginned later, and that has been very important. Furthermore, the use of moduling by some growers has reduced the volume of trailer cotton and made it possible for others to continue using trailers.

The extensive use of module makers over the years has benefitted the harvest and ginning process. The degree of conversion, however, is somewhat less than expected (Table 1). Some gins have processed as little as 30 to 40% of total volume from cotton in modular form.

Table 1
PERCENT OF BALES MODULED
By Selected Gins

<u>Gin Location</u>	<u>Percent of Ginning</u>
Avondale	13.36
Buckeye	43.26
Waddell	33.50
Buckeye-Avondale	60.00
Chandler-Higley	64.40
Buckeye-Gila Bend	95.30