

SEED TREATMENT FOR SEEDLING DISEASE CONTROL

Lester M. Blank

In cooperation with pathologists in California, New Mexico and West Texas we took part in the Western Cottonseed Treatment Test of 1971. Uniform testing was done with acid delinted seed of mid-southern origin, and intermediate in quality. Our planting at Phoenix was made March 30, and the emerged seedlings were checked 3, 4, 5 and 6 weeks later for disease and for surviving stand. Based on 6-week data we had 40% stand in the untreated seed while the 19 lots receiving fungicide treatments averaged 51.7% stand. The differences in favor of treatment were statistically significant with every one of the 19 fungicide-treated lots. It is of interest to note that 18 of the 19 fungicide-treated lots were treated with non-mercurial protectants, and were effective in controlling seedling disease. Loss after emergence was ranged from a high of 8.85% loss in the untreated control to a low of 2.01% loss in the best treatment.

In another experiment at Phoenix we compared 8 lots of seed grown in Arizona or California, and acid delinted and processed in Arizona. We obtained samples of each of these 8 lots of seed before and after treatment with the standard fungicide combination used in Arizona in 1971, captan + PCNB. Surviving stands at 6 weeks after planting averaged 52.8% from the 8 lots of untreated seed and 61.5% from the fungicide-treated lots. Analysis of these data disclosed highly significant effects due to fungicide treatment, and also between the 8 sources or lots of western-grown seed.

SOUTHWESTERN COTTON RUST

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About 10 years ago we demonstrated that control of Southwestern cotton rust could be established by the timely application of a protectant fungicide to the foliage, prior to and during the rainy period in July and August. These findings have been used in those areas of Arizona where this disease is a threat. A more desirable control measure would be the use of a rust resistant variety, and we are giving major emphasis to this approach. In 1971 3 of our breeding lines, all of Acala background, advanced into preliminary strain tests in competition with rust-susceptible varieties Hopicala and Deltapine 16. The rust entries compared very favorably with Hopicala but were outyielded by DPL 16 under the non-rust conditions of the Phoenix test.

COTTON REPORT - VERT WILT

S.M. Alcorn

Results from various studies have suggested that the susceptibility of cotton plants to Verticillium albo-atrum might in part relate to carbohydrate concentration in their roots. It, therefore, seemed possible that cotton varieties tolerant to V. albo-atrum might be rapidly identified on the basis of carbohydrate concentrations in their roots. In cooperation with Lee S.