

The Effect of Field Weathering, Late Set Bolls and Seed Storage on Quality of Pima Planting Seed

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We have noted that as seed age for several months after harvesting, germination generally improves. This has also been reported by other researchers and observed by many growers.

A preliminary evaluation of the magnitude of this effect was made by comparing seed harvested in 1976 and planted in 1977 and 1978 (Table 1).

Although the storage effect on seed quality needs additional evaluation, these data suggest that improvement in seed performance in the field could be realized by storing seed one year before planting.

Table 1. The effect of field weathering, late set bolls and seed storage on the quality of Pima planting seed.

Harvest date 1976	Source	% Std.Germ	% Cool Germ	Phoenix		Marana		Safford		
				Surviving Stand	ET50	Surviving Stand	ET50	Surviving Stand	ET50	
<u>Field Weathering</u>										
Planted 1977										
Nov 2	Marana	94.8	72.0	54	12.8	82	10.1	69	13.0	
Jan 4	Marana	65.5	25.0	35	13.6	66	11.6	45	12.6	
Planted 1978										
Nov 2	Marana	92.0	62.0	60	5.9	20	7.0	60	10.9	
Jan 4	Marana	78.0	42.5	50	6.3	7	9.5	45	11.3	
<u>Late Set Bolls</u>										
Planted 1977										
Jan 4	Marana	80.5	19.5	46	14.0	74	10.4	54	12.9	
Planted 1978										
Jan 4	Marana	90.0	45.5	58	6.8	11	9.6	50	11.4	