

Which Cotton Variety for Arizona in 1969?

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The grower's choice of an upland cotton variety in 1969 will again be based on the price-yield relationships that he expects at harvest time. His projected yield is also an economic factor that must enter into the selection of the most profitable variety.

A few growers will contract with buyers to produce lint of a given variety or quality. These contracts help to remove the guesswork from variety selection. Ultimately, each individual must weigh the factors of price and the yield he can obtain with a specific variety before making his decision.

Quality factors appear relatively unimportant in the present price structure.

In 1968, Acala varieties accounted for about 14 percent of the upland cotton acreage in Arizona. The southeastern varieties were used on most of the remaining acreage. A brief description of varieties available for 1969 includes:

Hopicala. Hopicala has produced well in most of the elevation areas of Arizona, especially those below 2,500 feet. This variety has excellent fiber qualities and adequate tolerance to Verticillium wilt in most years. Hopicala was a joint release by Arizona, New Mexico and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and it's plants are somewhat later in maturity than the southeastern varieties.

Acala 1517D. This New Mexico variety is best adapted to the higher elevations. Fiber quality of Acala 1517D is superior to the previously released Acala 1517C. Over a period of several years, yields of Acala 1517D at Marana, elevation 1500 feet, have averaged about 85 percent as much as the southeastern varieties or Hopicala.

Acala 1517V. This variety is similar to Acala 1517D but is much more tolerant to Verticillium wilt. Where Verticillium wilt is not a problem, Acala 1517V will produce about 95 percent as much lint as Acala 1517D.

Deltapine 16. Characteristically, leaves of plants of this variety are very smooth, the plants are fairly erect and are early. In addition plants of the variety exhibit distinctly more tolerance to Verticillium wilt than the previously grown Deltapine Smooth Leaf. Fiber quality and yields for this southeastern variety were good in 1968. Staple length for this variety was mostly in the range of 1 1/16 to 1 3/32 inch. More than 75 percent of the 1968 crop averaged 1 3/32 inch in length.

Stoneville 213. This southeastern variety was grown on a small acreage in Arizona in 1968. It produced a good yield of seed cotton, had a high gin turnout, and the staple length ranged from 1 1/16 to 1 3/32. Plants of this variety are early in maturity making early harvest possible.

Other Varieties. Coker 413 and Stoneville 508 are two new commercial varieties that were grown on limited acreages in 1968. Fiber length and strength of Coker 413 and Stoneville 508 exceeds that of other southeastern varieties grown in Arizona. The yields for these varieties have usually been lower than for other southeastern varieties, however. The Del Cerro variety of cotton produces the longest and strongest fiber of any American upland cotton grown in the United States and is best adapted to the intermediate elevations of this state. Plants of this variety do not have much Verticillium wilt tolerance.

Planting Recommendations

1. Low Elevations (up to 1500 feet) — Deltapine 16, Stoneville 213. Make observation plantings of Stoneville 508 and Coker 413 or larger plantings where previous tests have shown these varieties to be profitable.

2. Intermediate Elevations (1500-2500 feet) — Deltapine 16, Stoneville 213, and Hopicala.

3. Higher Elevations (above 2500 feet) — Acala 1517D or Acala 1517V.

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