

August, 2010

Volume 1 Number 2



Figure 3: Picture of the Acala GLS on the field about 77 days after planting at the Leyendecker Plant Science Center.

Crop Overview

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Crop Overview

The 2010 cotton season started a little late in several parts of the State due to lower than average soil temperature that was experienced at the beginning of the season (Figure 1). However, observations from several cotton fields reveal that the cotton crop and degree days (Figure 2) is on target for boll development. Disease and pest pressure have been minimal with good pest scouting and if the season continues favorably, we should be expecting a good yield statewide. The area planted to cotton in NM increased by about 12% in 2010 compared to 2009 (Table 1). This increase was mainly due to an expansion of acreages in upland cotton.

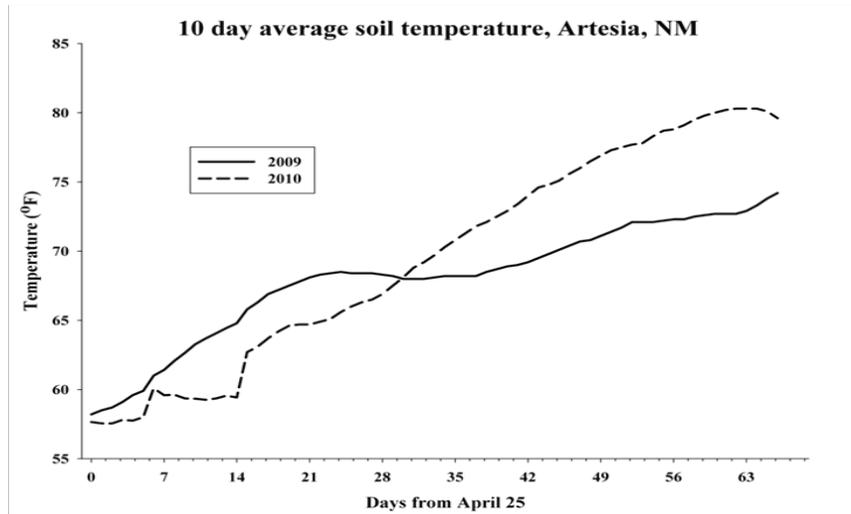


Figure 1. Four-inch soil temperature from April 25 compared between 2009 and 2010.

Table 1: Area planted to cotton in New Mexico* (2009 and 2010)

	2009	2010
Upland Cotton	31,100	35,000
Pima Cotton	2,800	3,000
All Cotton	33,900	38,000

*National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United State Department of Agriculture (USDA)

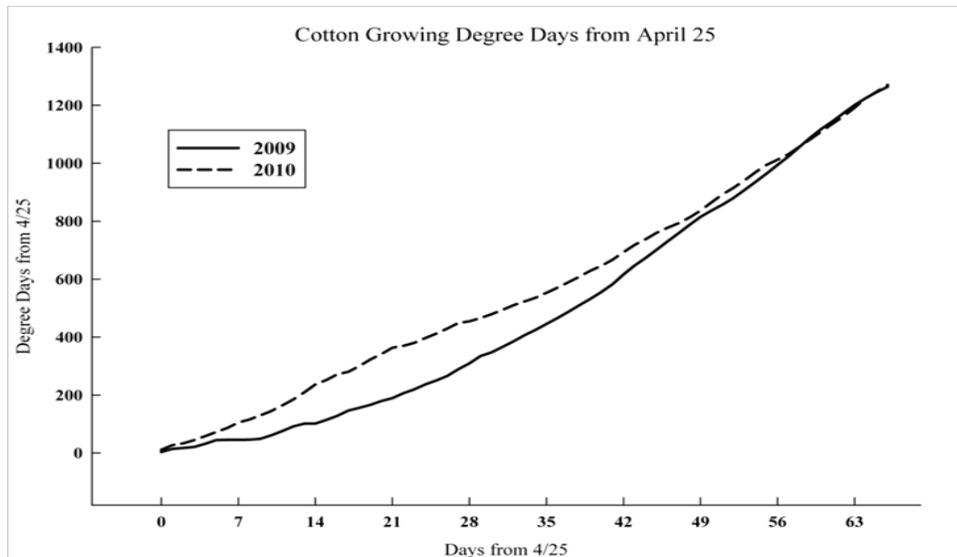


Figure 2. Cumulative degree day for cotton compared between 2009 and 2010

Glandless Cotton Research Update

Gossypol has been the bane of the livestock industry when it comes to feeding cottonseed. A new line of Acala that contains no gossypol glands has been made available by Cotton Incorporated for testing in New Mexico after years of breeding and development. Funding was received this spring from Cotton Incorporated to test Acala-GLS, a variety of glandless cotton. The glandless cotton is a normal cotton plant but without gossypol. This makes the seeds edible for non-ruminants and humans. Gossypol, which is a chemical substance normally present in cotton plants and seeds, limits cotton seed consumption as food and feed. Cotton seeds with gossypol are toxic to non-ruminants and must be fed carefully to ruminants to avoid acute gossypol poisoning. Glandless cotton, free of gossypol, can serve as peanut alternative (lacking allergens) in human food and can also be fed to non-ruminants and aquatic animals such as shrimp and catfish. This could be a very large market.

However, due to the absence of gossypol, glandless cotton is more susceptible to insect pests since gossypol acts as natural deterrent to pest in conventional glanded cotton (cotton with gossypol). Previous trials with glandless cotton in the Southwest showed its high susceptibility to chewing, piercing and sucking insect pests such as lygus and boll weevil. Eradication programs of the major cotton pests that have taken place in NM may favor the growth and acceptable yield of glandless cotton.

The NMSU: Leyendecker Plant Science Center, Las Cruces, NM and the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Artesia have replicated plots to compare Acala-GLS against two or three varieties including Acala 1517-99, Acala 1517-08, and a stacked variety from a local grower. Four collaborating growers are also involved in the glandless cotton trial located in Anthony, Garfield, Lake Arthur, and Otis, NM. Acala-GLS planted on cooperator farms will be compared against their varieties of choice.

Results, so far, show that the glandless cotton is performing well at all the research and growers' sites. There were initial concerns at Leyendecker site about thrips damage to young leaves very early in the season. This however, was not peculiar only to the glandless but damage cut across the other varieties that were tested. The cotton plants all recovered from the injury as the season progressed as seen in Figure 3(front page). There was also some hail damage at the Lake Arthur site early in the season. The plants have since recovered from the hail damages.

The cotton plants in most of the sites are at the boll development stage as of the third week of August. A side-by-side comparison between Acala-GLS and Acala 1517-99 is shown in Table 2 from a sampling done 80 days after planting. The conventional 1517-99 variety appears to be more vigorous than the glandless variety and will be compared to other sites as the season progresses. Yield and fiber quality data will be collected this fall from all sites. We expect a report to be available at the 2011 Cotton Growers Association meeting.

	ACALA GLS	ACALA 1517-99
Plant Height (ins)	23	37
Nodes No.	17	24
Number of fruiting branches	11	18
Number of squares	23	77
Number of Bolls	3	7

Table 2: Cotton measurements comparing Acala GLS to Acala 1517-99 in Anthony, NM (80 days after planting)

Cotton Task Force Meeting

The next **Cotton Task Force meeting will take place on September 22, 2010 at 1:30pm in the Conference Room of the Cotton Ginning Laboratory in Las Cruces, NM.** You are all invited even if you have not previously participated in the Cotton Task Force Meeting. It will be a great opportunity to learn about the recent happenings in the cotton industry and the future of cotton production in the State. Representative from Cotton Incorporated will be present to give information on the performance of cotton industry nationwide.

The Cotton Task Force was set up in 2009 to address the declining cotton production in NM. Since last year, the Cotton Task Force has met several times to address the issues related to cotton production in the NM and to help develop strategies that will promote the growth of the cotton industry.

Cotton Incorporated State Support Meeting

A meeting of the Cotton Incorporated State Support Committee will be held at NMSU's Leyendecker Plant Science Center Conference Room (7215 Plant Science Cir, La Mesa, NM) on September 22, 2010 beginning at 9:00am. The committee will review proposals for funding through Cotton Incorporated's State Support funds.

Call for proposals - Cotton Incorporated State Support Program

Proposals are due to Robert Flynn, Executive Secretary, CI State Support program by September 6, 2010. Anticipate \$10,000 total funds available.

The Cotton Incorporated State Support Program is calling for proposals focused on any area listed below:

Cotton Plant Improvements

- Genetic improvements to enhance cotton yield and quality
- Removal of seed gossypol
- Improving cotton's resistance to temperature extremes
- Advances in biotechnology

Improving cotton's resistance to insects and diseases
Cotton Breeder's Tour
Tecoman, Mexico Winter Nursery

Profitable Production Practices

Crop Management seminars
Insect Management tools
Reduced dependence on pesticides
Eliminating sticky cotton due to insects
Profitable conservation tillage
Invention of improved monitoring system for boll weevils
Power roll gin stand commercialized cottonseed research and marketing
Development of EasiFlo™ coated cottonseed for ease-of-handling in the livestock feed
Outreach providing technical nutrition information, pricing and availability
Advertising targeted to cattlemen and dairymen to increase the use of cottonseed

More details about this funding opportunity is provided online at <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/ifcpm/documents/cotton-incorporated-state-support.pdf>

Cotton Prices

Cotton Monthly Prices Index*

Month	Price (cents/pound)
July-2009	64.80
August-2009	64.26
September-2009	64.07
October-2009	66.82
November-2009	71.78
December-2009	76.78
January-2010	77.39
February-2010	80.05
March-2010	85.80
April-2010	88.08
May-2010	90.07
June-2010	93.04
July-2010	85.73

*Source: National Cotton Council of America

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We welcome contributions from growers, extension agents, and other stakeholders.

Please feel free to send your comments, information and contributions to John Idowu (email: jidowu@nmsu.edu; phone: 575-646-2571). If you are interested in previous edition of the Cotton Bulletin, please feel free to download at <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/ifcpm/documents/cotton-newsletter-volume-1-number-1.pdf>