



Cotton Variety Selection

Written by: Mark Kelley – March 2015

Cotton variety selection is one of the most important, if not the most important, decisions that producers on the Texas High Plains and in the Texas Panhandle make each year. Luckily, many excellent varieties are available and are suited for this region. However, not all varieties fit the diverse field conditions and management practices observed in the region. Variety characteristics, such as maturity (or earliness), plant growth habit, fruiting habit, disease or nematode tolerance, technology traits, and storm tolerance, are just a few of the key considerations, in addition to yield potential and fiber quality. Selecting varieties for individual fields rather than planting one variety to an entire farm is highly recommended. Field based factors to consider when making decisions for a

variety include, soil type, irrigation capacity and method (if irrigated), fertility level, disease or nematode presence and identity, weed spectrum and herbicide resistance, and tillage practices. To assist with variety selection, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research, as well as local crop consultants and seed company personnel, conduct many cotton variety tests annually. These trials/demonstrations are widespread and are conducted under variable field and environmental conditions as well as varying management practices. Results from multiple locations (and years if possible) should be considered, especially when adopting a new variety. When planting a variety for the first time, plant a limited number of acres in order to “learn” the response of the variety to field and management practices. For information on

past and recent variety trials conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, producers may visit the Lubbock Center website at

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu> or

<http://cotton.tamu.edu> . If more information is needed or if questions about particular variety trial results arise, producers are welcome to call me at 806-781-6572 (mobile), or 806-746-6101 (office).

Below are links to the most recent variety reports from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research:

[2014 Systems Agronomic and Economic Evaluation of Cotton Varieties on the Texas High Plains](#)

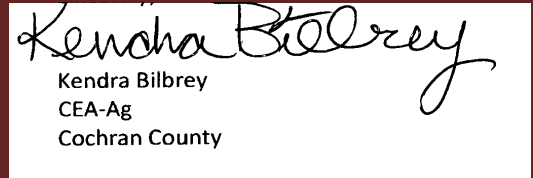
<http://24benefi37g1f8w8w3ohxam1.wpengi ne.netdna-cdn.com/files/2015/03/2014-Sytems-Agronomic-and-Economic-Evaluation-of-Cotton-Varieties-Final-Report.pdf>

[2014 AG-CARES Annual Report](#)

<http://24benefi37g1f8w8w3ohxam1.wpengi ne.netdna-cdn.com/files/2015/03/2014-AG-CARES-Report.pdf>

[2014 Cotton Performance Tests in the Texas High Plains](#)

<http://24benefi37g1f8w8w3ohxam1.wpengi ne.netdna-cdn.com/files/2015/02/Cotton-book-2014online1.pdf>



200-B W. TAYLOR
MORTON, TX
806-266-5215

KENDRA.BILBREY@AG.TAMU.EDU