

Seminole Crop E News 6-05-11 Cotton

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THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

6-5-11Farmers and Agribusiness,



We're having problems in many fields with getting a uniform stand of cotton. In the photo you can see a plant coming out and growing normally and several stuck in the cotyledonary stage and stressing. If you dig them up you'll see J or S rooted plants, sometime burned looking roots. The healthy plants right beside these will often have fairly normal roots.

In some situations the stands are good enough to keep and the bad plants seem to be growing out of it with several waterings. But many fields like this have been replanted.

Why is this happening is difficult to answer. Most folks looking at the problem agree that it's a combination of many things, like one grower said , a perfect storm. We've had exceptional hot, dry weather, we have lots of herbicides to fight pigweed on and in the soil, and perhaps the seed or variety vigor isn't the best. Then we plant, apply herbicide and water like crazy pushing the herbicides into the soil, which we need to do to get weed control and plant emergence, and it gets into the zone with the cotton seed and seedling.

This causes more problems in that if you have stands that aren't healthy and uniform then postemergent herbicide sprays can cause more damage plus you have to have more waterings to get the crop going.

One thing that may help some is to have the soil moist at planting before pushing herbicides down around the seed.

Later,

Rome

Rome Ethredge

Seminole County Extension Agent