Cotton Outlook OSU

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Current Crop and Insect Situation:

Rainfall has halted the start of the 2007 planting season. With temperatures rebounding into seasonal norms as soon as these systems passes soil temperature should not be a concern. Minimum soil temperatures average over 65° F. all the over the state except for the panhandle.

For planting decisions please contact:
J.C. Banks 580-482-2120 or
Shane Osborne 580-482-2633.

Soil Temperature

Soil temperatures should average 65 degrees for the low temperature at a depth of approximately 3 to 4 inches for three days.

Following planting, the 5-day forecast should call for daytime temperatures exceeding 80° and nighttime temperatures above 60°. Under favorable conditions, seedlings should push through the soil surface in 5 to 10 days.

Low Average Soil temperature at May Ranch Farthest North Mesonet Station May 5 – May 8
65°F

State of Oklahoma cotton.

Still in the bag.

Planting

Planting is the most critical aspect of growing. A farmer can do nothing to improve yield on poor stands except replant. The most desired result is to - plant seed on a firm moist seedbed with loose, dry dirt on top.

Good moisture is best insurance. If there has been a drought followed by a planting rain, make sure that the top moisture has joined the bottom moisture. No root will push through dry soil.

A well-maintained planter will lessen the risk of down time and ensure a timely finish to planting this spring. Another benefit to a smooth-running planter will be a greater likelihood of uniform stand establishment; an important factor for achieving maximum yields. With the cost of seed rising one of the most important thing is knowing you are planting the right amount of seed. When calibrating your planter's seeding rate, remember to calibrate to seed per row foot and not pounds of seed per acre. Seed size varies from variety to variety, so you need to make sure that you are planting the correct number of seeds, not pounds of seed. Varieties can vary from 3,500 to 5,500 seeds per pound. If you calibrate for a large-seeded variety and then switch to a smaller-seeded variety, you could establish thousands of extra plants per acre.

CALIBRATE THE PLANTER!

For plate planters:

Measure the drive wheel.

Catch seeds under one dispenser for one full revolution of drive wheel.

Count seed and divide by wheel measurement.

Calibrate as required and repeat.

Before starting, catch seed under each dispenser to check for same relative amount.

For air or vacuum planters:

Calculate & record the seed weight for each seed lot you intend to plant.

Identify & record the correct pressure (air or vacuum) for the calculated seed weight.

Identify & record the correct seed disc (or drum) for the calculated seed weight.

Here are some general guidelines and tips for planter maintenance and adjustments.

Clean the planter inside and out. This should have been done at the end of last year's planting season before the planter was 'put to bed' for the off-season. Check for old seed left in the hoppers, mouse nests, and anything else that may interfere with the operation of the seed meter or seed drop tubes.

Check and replace all worn out parts.

Ensure that coulters and disc openers are aligned accurately.

Replace worn seals and check trueness of fit of seed drum (Case IH Cyclo™).

Replace worn rubber seals on JD vacuum seed discs.

Adjust or replace worn disc openers. For finger-pickup type planters, check finger-pickup back plates for rust buildup, seed treatment residues, and worn down 'dimples'.

Check and adjust finger tension.

Check condition of seed conveyor belt. Age + seed treatment = brittleness.

Also check condition of belt drive sprocket teeth.

Replace worn chains. Lubricate or replace chain links.

Inflate tires to their correct pressure.

Clean seed tubes and monitor sensors to ensure accurate monitoring of seed flow. Replace seed tubes if excessively worn at bottom.

Double check the operations manual and identify the correct transmission setting for the desired seeding rate.

Calibrate actual seed drop against ...
Planter transmission settings
Planter monitor readouts

Calibrate at normal planting speeds and seeding rates.

Calibrate in as close to field conditions as possible.

Don't calibrate the planter in the farm lane.

Calibrate pesticide and fertilizer planter attachments at same time because application rates can easily change from year to year.

Check that the planter toolbar is parallel to ground when planter is in use because this affects disc opener depth, press wheel efficiency, & seed to soil contact.

In loose or sandy soil, drive wheel will slip and seeds per foot should be increased.

As soon as feasible, determine number of seeds per foot being planted to insure that calibration is correct. Wheels can slip depending on soils.

One common error: not checking seed depth for all planter rows.

Check planting depth and moisture as field conditions change.

Put in same volume of seed in each planter box to enable detection of a box planting too much or too little.Lift off packer wheels from planting line or put as little pressure on as possible.

Pushing too much dirt off the seed line and ending up in a furrow makes the seedling susceptible to being covered in heavy rains.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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