WEATHER UPDATE

- High pressure over the Southwest will produce hot and dry conditions for much of the week. Expect near record high temperatures mid-week. Windy and cooler conditions are expected late this week as a storm system passes through the Great Basin. This storm system is not expected to generate precipitation in cotton production areas.

- Forecasts for Colorado River spring flow into Lake Powell now stand at 3 MAF or 42% of the average flow, which is ~7.2 MAF.

- Plant population should range from 25,000-50,000 plants/a. To assess, count the number of plants in 1/1000a & multiply by 1000. Row length = to 1/1000a:
  40"row = 13'1", 38"row = 13'9", 36"row = 14'6", 30"row = 17'5''.

- Go to https://www.ag.arizona.edu/azmet/cot-soil.htm to review local AZMET values.

- Planting date: 3/15 4/1 4/15 5/1
- Water use (last wk): .4” .4” .4” .4”

- Last Week’s Rain: Maricopa = 0” / Coolidge = .01”

- Here are this week’s Cotton Advisories for different regions in Central Arizona
  
  Coolidge / Maricopa / Pinal
GUAYULE UPDATE
Blase Evancho

Cooperative Extension has been receiving calls from across Southern Arizona and even across the country, to discuss the potential of growing guayule. We would like to give everyone a general timeline of when guayule may be a production option as well as the describe the large effort that is being put forth to make this crop a valuable option for growers.

The industrial use of the guayule plant for an alternative source of rubber is being driven by the Bridgestone corporation. They have established a guayule research farm and a research scale processing facility where they are actively processing the rubber from guayule. This is all directed at making the commercial processing of guayule a reality in Central Arizona. Even though this research is moving forward at a rapid pace there is still likely 4-8 years before the commercial processing is underway and larger scale acreage (25,000-50,000 acres) is required to fulfill the processing needs.

University faculty members are working closely with Bridgestone to stay up to date and involved with their research and progress towards commercializing guayule production. In addition to this the university’s Sustainable Bioeconomy for Arid Regions (SBAR) Center of Excellence has obtained a grant to do multifaceted research to improve the economic potential of guayule. This grant is investigating the creation of a commercialized process to create biofuel from the biomass remaining after the rubber is removed from the plant as well as to create commercial usage for the resins produced by the plant which are extracted during processing. This project involves researchers from several universities, industry, and USDA, all working toward increasing the profitability of guayule.

Although not yet commercial, we are interested in identifying growers who might be interested in cooperating with us on future guayule on-farm research.

Please contact Blase Evancho at bee1@email.arizona.edu or (520) 705-0871, for additional questions or to show your interest in growing guayule.