COTTON HARVEST WEATHER IMPACTS

As the remnants of Rosa blew through central Arizona earlier this week, she left behind conditions that are not exactly perfect for cotton harvest. There is also the potential for more rain and much cooler weather beginning early next week. These conditions could potentially lead to regrowth of cotton that has already been successfully defoliated and a much harder time defoliating cotton over the next several weeks.

As we know, our defoliants work best under higher temperatures, in combination with a drought stressed cotton plant, and we won't have either of those condition for the next several weeks. This translates to the use of higher rates of defoliant with less success.

While these weather challenges may lead to a difficult defoliation, growers should rely on their past experiences, insight from their PCAs and research from Cooperative Extension. Maybe we should all pray for some warm dry weather as well.

Below is a link to the publication “Crop Management for Defoliation.” This document was written by everybody's favorite Extension Cotton Specialist, Dr. Jeff Silvertooth, and goes over a quick rundown of how to manage your cotton for the remainder of this season.

https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1213.pdf

Cheers,

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