



4-H Club Boys' Cotton Demonstrations

Fred C. Elliott, Extension Cotton Work Specialist

and

Ben R. Spears, Extension Agronomist

TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE SYSTEM



1. Plant cotton only on good land which has been terraced or contoured where it slopes. A wise cotton grower saves the rainfall as well as the soil to produce greatest yields.
2. Prepare the land well. The method of preparation varies in different sections of Texas. Check with your county agricultural agent.
3. Your fertilizer needs can be determined best through use of a soil test. Soils of this State and even soils on your own farm vary widely in plant nutrient requirements. Your county agent has the forms needed for submitting a soil sample for testing. General fertilizer recommendations for your soils are available. Ask your county agent for the leaflet which applies to your farm.
4. Plant well-bred seed, preferably certified, of the variety best adapted. If possible, all boys in the county should plant the same variety.
5. Treat the seed chemically to insure better stand and yield by reducing seed rots and damage from seedborne diseases such as sore shin and angular leaf spot. A good treatment is the use of Ceresan M or Dow 9B according to the rates and directions printed on the container. Extension blueprint No. 235 shows how to use a homemade barrel treater for treating seed. *Caution: The chemicals are poisonous and must be handled accordingly.* USDA Leaflet 198 gives full directions for seed treatment.
6. Plant when the soil has warmed up sufficiently to insure rapid and uniform seed germination.
7. In East Texas plant cotton on a medium bed to allow better drainage and to enable the soil to warm up quicker. In West Texas and other dry sections, plant below the level. Plant the seed 1 to 2 inches deep, the depth depending upon the condition of the soil and amount of moisture present.

8. Give cotton a spacing of 2 to 4 plants per foot depending on soil fertility and moisture. Use thicker spacing for machine harvesting.

9. Cultivate shallow, not more than 2 inches deep and only often enough to keep down grass and weeds. Deep cultivation cuts too many feeder roots and often causes shedding of squares and young bolls, thereby reducing the yield.

10. Poison for insects if necessary, especially boll weevil, flea hopper, bollworm and leafworm. Extension Leaflet 218 gives full directions.

11. Harvest cotton early because profits often are reduced greatly by exposing cotton to weather which causes shedding of lint and lowers the grade and price.

12. Destroy stalks early in areas where pink bollworm regulations require this practice. See Extension Leaflet 219.

13. If check rows without fertilizer are planted, be sure to note the difference in yield of fertilized and unfertilized cotton.

14. Have the cotton classed and sell it on a grade and staple basis.

15. Keep a record of the demonstration.

Your fertilizer needs can be determined

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

G. G. GIBSON, DIRECTOR, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS