



CROP...Line

Creative Research Original Products

A Growing Newsletter

"The Defoliation 2-Step" *mailed 8/27/07*

Finally, the month of August is coming to a close. I don't know about any one else but we are glad to see it over. It has been hot...(whew!) and dry...(man), this month and the crops are maturing quickly.

We see that the nitrogen is playing out of the cotton and that is going to help the leaves drop. Which brings me to my topic: deciding when to defoliate a crop.

Since defoliation is a chemical that is applied to upset the hormonal balance, the decision as to how and when to remove the leaves and open the bolls appears to be one of the most difficult tasks in cotton farming.

It is an important decision from two main standpoints: timing and rate. Let's look at timing first.

1. If the crop is defoliated too soon, quality and profits suffer.
2. If you wait too long you increase the likelihood of additional insect problems or running into bad weather.

As to the rate...

1. If too much is applied you stick the leaf.
2. Too little could be a complete failure.

Plus there are several factors which could effect the defoliation application. The chemical condition of the plant, the specific defoliant, and of course, our old friend, the weather.

In order for the defoliant to work *well* it needs:

1. Good leaf coverage -deposition
2. Good plant absorption -penetration

As you know, the moisture content needs to stay high in the plant which aids the movement of the defoliation chemical.

This is why **HOOK®** works so well with defoliation chemicals.

HOOK® gives you help with the 2 things that the plant needs for proper defoliation: deposition and penetration.

Now since none of the defoliant chemical is considered to be very systemic and none will translocate within the plant, in order for the process to work, you need, (you guessed it) two things.

1. A surfactant that will work with the plant for greater absorption.
2. A higher spray volume just plain good ole deposition coverage.

Why the answer is **HOOK®**! And don't forget **HOOK®** is the best Drift Control on the market.

We still recommend 1 qt per 100 gal. But if your cotton is very rank and has a lot of leaf surfaces it would not hurt to go to 3-4 pts per 100 gal.

We at Atlantic-Pacific Trading Company LLC hope everyone has a good crop and a safe harvest.

NL #6

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