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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
***of The* Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.**
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TIME of PLANTING COTTON in ALABAMA

Cotton planted a week to 10 days earlier than customary produces higher yields than cotton planted later.

This conclusion is based on results from a number of years experiments with planting dates for cotton carried on at the Tennessee Valley and Sand Mountain substations, and at the Aliceville, Lafayette, Monroeville, and Prattville experiment fields.

According to results from these experiments most farmers could increase their cotton yields by planting a week to 10 days earlier than they usually do. On most soils cotton planting should be completed by or before the date that is usually considered normal planting time.

The middle dates in these time-of-planting experiments are assumed to be near the usual or customary cotton planting time of the areas in which the tests are located. Planting earlier resulted in higher yields of seed cotton than those from cotton planted at the usual time at five of the six locations.

Late planted cotton sometimes produces fair to good yields. However this is an exception rather than a rule. For example, the yield of cotton planted at Aliceville on May 10 equalled that planted on April 10 only once in 9 years. In 2 of the 9 years the late-planted cotton produced less than 10 per cent as much as the early-planted. At the Lafayette Field late-planted cotton produced equally as well as the early planted crop only 2 out of 8 years; on the other hand in 2 other years, the yield was less than one-half that of the early-planted cotton. Thus, it may be seen that the yields from late planting are not as dependable.

*Formerly Mimeograph Series.

Time of Planting Cotton in Alabama[1]

Location	Years	Average planting date	Average yield seed cotton per acre
			Pounds
Tennessee Valley Substation	1939-46*	April 11	1,710
(Usual planting time, last	1939-46*	April 27	1,689
week in April)	1939-46*	May 14	1,385
Sand Mountain Substation	1939-42	April 16	1,992
(Usual planting time, last	1939-42	April 30	1,696
week in April)	1939-42	May 13	1,597
Aliceville Field	1939-46	March 31	1,624
	1938-46	April 10	1,658
(Usual planting time, last	1938-46	April 20	1,547
10 days of April)	1938-46	April 30	1,448
	1938-46	May 10	1,036
	1938-46	May 20	745
Lafayette Field	1939-46	April 2	1,187
(Usual planting time, mid-	1939-46	April 15	1,126
April)	1939-46	May 1	887
Monroeville Field	1939-43 & 46**	March 26	816
(Usual planting time,	1939-43 & 46**	April 9	791
early April)	1939-43 & 46**	April 28	522
Prattville Field	1939-46	March 27	1,193
(Usual planting time,	1939-46	April 10	1,206
second week of April	1939-46	April 29	1,095

*Test incomplete in 1942, result omitted.
**No data in 1944 and 1945, test destroyed by hail both years.

[1] Experiment conducted by H. R. Benford, F. E. Bertram, R. C. Christopher, S. E. Gissendanner, J. W. Richardson, and Fred Stewart of the Experiment Station staff.

Tests at Tennessee Valley, Sand Mountain, Monroeville, and Prattville planted and used in cooperative planter tests by I. F. Reed, Division of Agricultural Engineering, B.P.I.S. and E., U.S.D.A.