



Top 10 concerns from Natural Resource Survey

- 1) Weed resistance to herbicides
- 2) Consumer attitudes about agriculture and the environment
- 3) Efficient use of nitrogen
- 4) Insecticide resistance
- 5) Adequate well-water supply
- 6) Efficient use of phosphate
- 7) Pesticide drift
- 8) Spread of plant diseases and weeds
- 9) Insect resistance to Bollgard cotton
- 10) Soil erosion

What they said

Where do farmers get their farming information?

- 1) Other cotton producers
- 2) Ag magazines
- 3) Crop consultants
- 4) University/county Extension agents
- 5) Agribusiness sales representatives
- 6) Field days/demonstrations
- 7) Cotton industry organizations
- 8) Technical publications/fact sheets
- 9) Agricultural conferences
- 10) Internet Web sites
- 11) E-mail newsletters

Note: 10 and 11 are added from data from a computer survey

Water on their minds

WATER usage is an important farming issue and one that will only become more important in the future. Cotton Incorporated addressed this issue in its recent National Resource Survey by asking growers a number of questions to find out how they currently deal with this natural resource. In the process, Cotton Incorporated discovered "growers understand the value of water."

- Most of U.S. cotton is not irrigated
- 81% of growers have improved their irrigation systems

Top reasons to upgrade

- Improve yield
- Reduce water use
- Reduce energy use

WATER – Cotton growers use water efficiently

- Surface irrigation was
 - 78% in 1988
 - 68% in 1994
 - 56% in 1998
 - 50% in 2003
 - 44% now
- Water-use efficiency
 - 50 lbs./acre-inch from small plot research in 1990s
 - 67 lbs./acre-inch average across U.S.

Irrigation scheduling

- 1) Visual assessment
- 2) Plant monitoring techniques
- 3) Local weather forecasts
- 4) Real-time crop water use or evapotranspiration (ET)
- 5) Monitor tools

Irrigation system by region

	Far West	Far South	Mid-South	Southeast
Percent irrigated	87%	41%	56%	21%
Percent sprinkler	12%	73%	42%	99%
LEPA	2%	64%	11%	19%
Percent drip	8%	8%	1%	0%
Manage tail water	77%	38%	36%	2%

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