

Rookies join the cottonseed lineup

NEW companies, emerging companies and new varieties offer more choices for cottonseed than growers have seen in many years.

Here are some of the newcomers to the cotton field, including a few companies here were available in limited supply for 2005 and are more widely available for 2006.

DELTA AND PINE LAND CO.

■ Early maturity: DP 445 BG/RR, DP 113 B2RF, DP 117 B2RF, DP 108 RF, DP 110 RF

■ Mid- to full-maturity: DP 454 BG/RR, DP 455 BG/RR, DP 143 B2RF, DP 147 RF, DP 164 B2RF, DP 167 RF, DP 156 B2RF, DP 152 RF

FIBERMAX

■ Early maturity: FM 9068F

■ Medium-maturity: FM 988LLB2

■ Mid- to full-maturity: FM 965LLB2, FM 960B2

NEXGEN

■ Very early to early maturity: NG 1553R and NG 2448R, both developed specifically for the Plains

■ Medium-maturity: NG 3550RF, NG 3969R, suitable for planting in the southern Plains, the Rolling Plains and southwestern Oklahoma, and NG 3273B2RF, also for the Plains

PHYTOGEN

■ Early maturity: PHY 370 WZR

■ Early to mid-maturity: PHY 470 WR, PHY 480 WR, PHY 475 WRF, PHY 485 WRF, PHY 125 RF, PHY 415 RF, PHY 425 RF, PHY 725 RF, NM 1517-99 W

■ Browse www.phytogenyields.com to learn more

STONEVILLE

■ Early to mid-maturity: ST 4357B2RF, ST 4554B2RF, ST 4664RF, ST 4700B2RF

■ Medium-maturity: ST 5007B2RF

■ Full-season: ST 6611B2RF and ST 6622RF

occupy 83% of North Carolina's cotton acreage, and they are all Roundup Ready varieties or a combination of Roundup Ready and *Bt* or *Bt* II technology."

WideStrike became commercially available for the first time in 2005 in PhytoGen varieties that include both the WideStrike technology alone and WideStrike combined with Roundup Ready. Tests have shown WideStrike is about as effective as Bollgard and offers growers new variety options.

By far, most of the new varieties that Bowman's team has looked at this year are coupled with either original *Bt*, *Bt* II or WideStrike technology. Companies often load up the transgenic technology in what they expect will be their best performing varieties, so Bowman says he wouldn't be surprised if these varieties perform better as a group than straight Roundup Ready versions.

However, if variety truly is the spice of life, then our cotton fields have become salsa bowls. Carter's little pills have nothing on U.S. cottonseed companies.

D&PL hits hard, winds up again

DP 555 BG/RR is the No. 1-planted

Their take



Bryan Bishop of Plainview, Texas, considers NexGen cotton a consistent, low-risk alternative to stripper cotton.

Ray Shirah of Hopeful, Ga., used Delta and Pine Land's famed Triple Nickel and its second runner-up, DP 444BG/RR, in 2005. In 2006,

he'll drop 444 and keep the Triple Nickel.



Rip into fertile sites

GROWERS who want to cull varieties as they weed their way through the myriad possibilities for 2006 can visit several Web sites to view field trial data.

Universities across the Cotton Belt publish their findings, as well as cottonseed companies.

Here are a few Web sites with cottonseed variety information:

■ www.beltwidecottongenetics.com

■ www.cottonexperts.com

■ www.ovt.ncsu.edu/out.asp?fontinfo=1,450,150

■ www.deltaandpine.com

■ www.griffin.peachnet.edu/caes/cotton

cotton variety in the nation. Growers commonly refer to the cotton as "Triple Nickel." It has both the Bollgard trait, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, for worm control, as well as the Roundup Ready trait for combating weeds. Beyond that, it fits the growing season for many producers seeking top yields and gin turnout.

"It's among the longest seasons of any cotton of the D&PL Co.," says Dan Krieg, a noted Texas cotton physiologist who now also consults for Delta and Pine Land Co.

Meanwhile, DP 444 BG/RR is the second-most planted cotton in the country, notes Marcus Sullivan, D&PL agronomist.

Growers fond of D&PL's popular Triple Nickel and its second top seller, DP 444 BG/RR, will be interested in the company's new mid-maturity, stacked-gene cotton variety, DP 454 BG/RR. In testing across the U.S. Cotton Belt, D&PL reports 454 demonstrated gin turnout in the DP 555 BG/RR-range and premium fiber quality potential on a

level of DP 444 BG/RR.

D&PL also has seed production in place on 10 new varieties containing the Roundup Ready Flex technology. Five of these varieties contain Roundup Ready Flex stacked with Bollgard II.

Beltwide guarantee raises bar

Beltwide Cotton Genetics LLC also will offer multiple-stacked Bollgard II/Roundup Ready Flex varieties in 2006, a first for this emerging company. They currently are growing at 77 locations from Texas to the Carolinas so as many growers as possible can see them perform locally.

In 2006, Beltwide will offer the same seed technology as the other major cottonseed companies. However, Beltwide differs from other seed companies.

Rice says, "Growers have told us that our replant guarantee and our \$50 per-bag satisfaction guarantee prove that not only do we believe in our products, we're willing to take a risk with them.

"Additionally, we concentrate solely on U.S. cotton producers. We don't sell our seed to foreign countries—we don't believe in training our competitors. Our family-owned business doesn't answer to corporate boards; we answer only to U.S. cotton growers," he adds.

FiberMax focuses on fiber quality

FiberMax, a cottonseed company created by Bayer CropScience, came on the market eight years ago and now has 29% of the U.S. market. Its trading card from inception has been fiber quality, and the push for certified FiberMax is stronger than ever. Growers are encouraged to certify their FiberMax crop to reap additional profit.

"There is additional value. If you're a FiberMax grower and you don't certify that you're leaving money on the table," the company's Brent Crossland says. "We know that mills are paying extra."

Another point in the FiberMax lineup is a new level of Liberty Link. In 2001, Bayer CropScience got a marketing license with Monsanto to introduce the Liberty Link trait for weed control with Ignite herbicide in 2004. For the first time, FiberMax will have Liberty Link cotton stacked with Bollgard II in 2006.

New company, new muscle

Cotton growers already are seeing big benefits from the integration of Emergent Genetics Inc. and Monsanto Co.—and can expect this formidable combination to build upon both Stoneville and NexGen brands in 2006.

This will be especially true in plant breeding, seed production, vigor, emergence, manufacturing, seed appearance, and quality and fiber.

In 2006, Plains cotton producers will see expanded availability of the recently introduced NexGen cotton brand, specifically bred and adapted for rugged cotton-production conditions in the northern Plains, West Texas, southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

PhytoGen poised to blossom

PhytoGen has three breeding programs that turn out some 60 to 80 new combinations per program each year, looking at early season and midseason upland and Acala and Pima.

PhytoGen offers nine new transgenic varieties in 2006, with either WideStrike insect protection alone, WideStrike stacked with Roundup Ready or Roundup Ready Flex. PhytoGen is testing several new elite strains this



NEW VARIETIES: Kyle Maple, marketing manager for Stoneville and NexGen, examines a Stoneville cotton test plot at the Monsanto Agronomy Center in Leland, Miss. About 40% of the two brands' 2006 product lineup will be new cotton varieties.

season against stacked Bollgard and Bollgard II varieties for possible introduction.

"We've heard loud and clear that people like a choice," says Duane Canfield, PhytoGen and WideStrike product manager. "Our goal is to give a choice in germplasm and traits. Over the next two or three years, we believe our market share will increase similar to the way it did in California the first years we had proprietary germplasm."

Farm Progress editors Richard Davis, J.T. Smith and Cecil Yancy contributed to this article.

Volume 5 ■ Number 1

Contents:

NewsWatch.....	1
Opinions and Letters.....	8
Crop Production.....	9
Machinery.....	13
Southern Farm Life.....	14
Beef Producer.....	BP1
Irrigation Extra.....	IE1
Classified/Marketplace.....	15
Livestock.....	24
Marketing.....	27

Contact us:

Editor: Pam Golden
pgolden@farmprogress.com
 2672 McDavid Rd., Crestview, FL 32536
 Phone: (850) 682-0608, Fax: (850) 689-6661

Contributing Editors:
 Wayne Harr
 Richard Davis
 John Otte, Economics
 Arlan Suderman, Marketing & Management
Executive Editor: Dan Crummett

Sales: Bill Pittard, (901) 758-2743

Call (800) 441-1410 for subscriptions.

For more sales and company information, see the last page of the Marketplace section.

To keep up on ag news in the region, check out www.Southern-Farmer.com. We feature updates on a wide range of topics, marketing data and weather information you can put to work in your operation.