

P R E V E N T I N G

sticky cotton

The reputation of West Texas cotton is invaluable!

In the world of cotton, the reputation of your fiber is everything. U.S. cotton is the best in the world. Domestic and foreign mills have found West Texas cotton to be an excellent fiber. They want to use our cotton, but if they suspect it is sticky, they will not buy it.

also can cause uneven yarn that is more likely to break during weaving or knitting of fabric.

Points of stickiness also attract dirt, causing excessive machine part wear. To cope, mills must hire extra labor, slow down production, replace more parts, and contend with off-quality products.

If cotton is sticky and goes into the loan, the problem does not go away. If a mill gets sticky cotton, they will find out where it came from, and may eliminate that gin from future cotton purchases.

Textile mills will not knowingly buy trouble. Mills do not want sticky cotton at a discounted price - they DO NOT WANT IT AT ALL. Once stickiness is discovered in an area, reports travel like lightning. It is very difficult to restore the reputation. Buyers will always be leery of cotton from that area and some customers may never come back. Every producer's effort is important in protecting the reputation and market for West Texas cotton.



Sticky cotton is cotton
contaminated with
excess plant sugar
and/or any amount of
insect sugar . It can
occur in dry climates. It

is the most dreaded contaminant in textile mills because it lowers productivity and costs more to process.

Excess plant sugar comes from immature fiber in green bolls killed by a hard freeze. Plant sugars can thinly coat textile machinery with stickiness, causing a costly slowdown in production.

Insect sugar contamination comes from late season, sap-sucking insects such as aphids and whiteflies. These insects feed on the underside of leaves, excreting droplets of a sugar-water mixture called honeydew, which rains down on the leaves and fiber of open bolls.

These droplets of stickiness are a far more serious problem for mills than the plant sugar. Little spots of sticky sugar cling to any surface the cotton passes over and fiber tags occur at these points. These tags can build and may even choke up textile machinery and delivery pipes. Tags of fiber



Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
4510 Englewood
Lubbock, Texas 79414

