

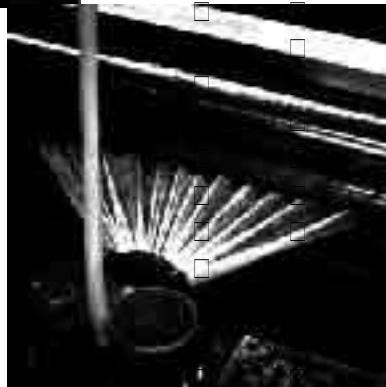
How can stickiness be prevented?



The most reliable way to avoid the problem is to manage your crop to prevent stickiness. The risk of having excessive plant sugars can be minimized by managing water and irrigation inputs to insure an early maturing crop.

Planning for timely crop termination, with the use of harvest aid chemicals, is very important, especially when plant-killing freezes are possible and plants still have green bolls. Harvest aid chemicals can prevent stickiness caused by plant sugar contamination.

Prevention of stickiness from insect sugars can be more difficult. Detailed plans for aphids are available in the publication, "1999 Suggestions For Cotton Aphid Management In West Texas", available from Extension agents or at <http://entowww.tamu.edu/extension/bulletins/aphweb99.html>.



Honeydew-producing aphids can be managed by avoiding conditions leading to outbreaks, such as excessive nitrogen fertilization, late irrigation, practices that lead to regrowth, and use of insecticides, such as pyrethroids, that can flare aphids.

With the startup of five boll weevil eradication programs in the West Texas area, there could be increased risk of late aphid infestation where multiple applications are made of ULV Fyfanon (malathion). Producers in these areas are advised to reserve one of the two applications of Furadan, permitted by EPA under the current section 18. Currently, the

suggested
 threshold for
 preventing aphid
 honeydew
 contaminated lint
 is 15 aphids per
 leaf, once cotton
 begins to open.

Once cotton is
 contaminated with

insect sugars, there is little that producers can do to alleviate the problem. Field infestations of aphids have declined in most years as cotton bolls begin to open. Rain before harvest has often "washed away" honeydew problems, but we cannot depend on always having an autumn rain. Research is being conducted on washing cotton with sprinkler irrigation from pivots.

Preliminary results indicate that as little as 1/4 inch of rainfall can significantly reduce the point stickiness from aphid sugars.

P R E V E N T I N G
**sticky
cotton**



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