



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENTOMOLOGY AND  
PLANT PATHOLOGY**  
Ferguson College of Agriculture

# Cotton Comments

OSU Southwest Oklahoma Research  
and Extension Center  
Altus, OK



June 6, 2024

Volume 13 No. 2

## Current Situation

Rainfall has caused periodic delays in planting across much of the cotton growing areas of Oklahoma. Most irrigated acres have been planted but rainfall continues to cause delays for dryland acres. Heavy rains and hail have also caused some acres to need to be replanted. Once fields dry up, there should be good planting moisture and a good soil moisture profile to get dryland acres up and going.

There are a few things to consider following heavy rains in terms of weed control. The initial rains we received were good for incorporating preemergence herbicides, where they were used. On the other hand, excess rainfall can cause some of these herbicides to break down faster. Be sure to keep an eye out for new flushes of weeds so timely postemergence applications can be made. Also, consider using a POST residual herbicide (Dual Magnum, Outlook, Warrant, etc.) with your postemergence burndown to help control weeds that may emerge with future rains or irrigation events.

Wheat harvest was in full swing prior to the rains and is picking back up now that fields are drying. Reports of some good yields have come in.

## Early-Season Pest Considerations

As was discussed in the previous newsletter, thrips are the biggest early-season pest concern for Oklahoma cotton production. Some producers have reported fields already being sprayed. So be sure to keep an eye on thrips populations as cotton emerges and develops until around the 5-leaf stage. Heavy thrips infestations can slow development for emerging plants and cause stand losses. Scouting fields from emergence to the five-leaf stage to monitor for thrips infestations is important to avoid losses. Be sure to monitor for thrips and damage caused by thrips (pictured below).

There are several options for thrips control currently available. Insecticidal seed treatments are a good way to get some early-season protection. Over-the-top broadcast applications may be needed as well. Several options are available including acephate, Bidrin, and others. Thryvon cotton is a good tool for thrips control as well. However, if your cotton has the Thryvon trait be sure to continue scouting because control measures may be justified.

**Thrips on cotton action thresholds from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.**

Crop Stage	Action Threshold
1 true leaf	1 thrips per plant
2 true leaves	2 thrips per plant
3 true leaves	3 thrips per plant
4 true leaves	4 thrips per plant
5-7 true leaves	Treatment is rarely justified



Photo credit: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (both images)

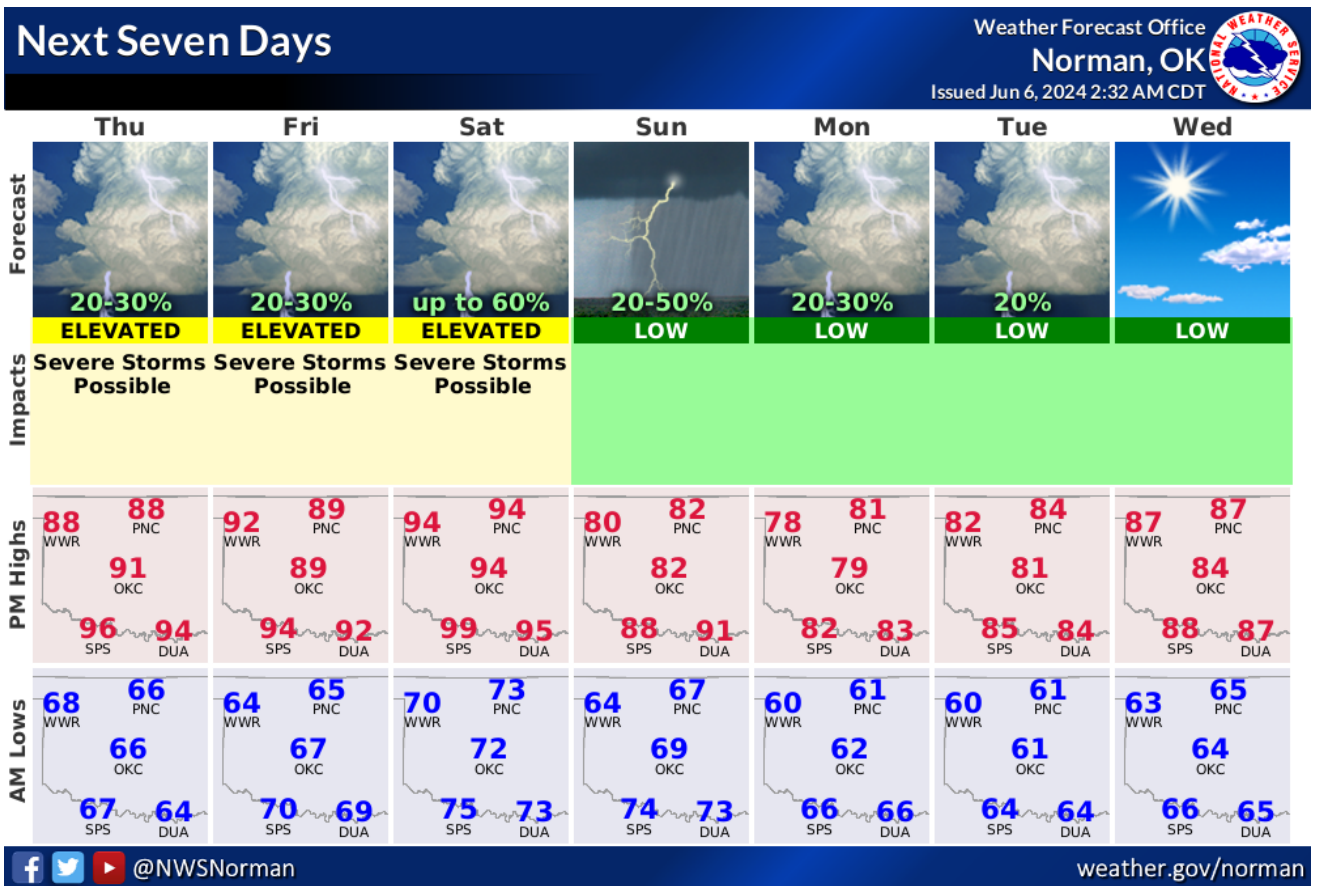
Several reports of grasshoppers have come in over the past few weeks, and some applications have been made to help manage these pests. Grasshoppers can feed on the foliage of cotton, especially recently emerged cotton. Unacceptable defoliation and stand loss can occur if pressure is high enough.

There are a couple of control options and things to consider when targeting grasshoppers. Often, spraying field borders is sufficient for control of these pests, but be sure to scout several areas within the field to determine where the pest is distributed. Control applications should be made when >30 percent defoliation has occurred or there is unacceptable stand loss. Several products are available to control grasshoppers, such as Vantacor and Bidrin.



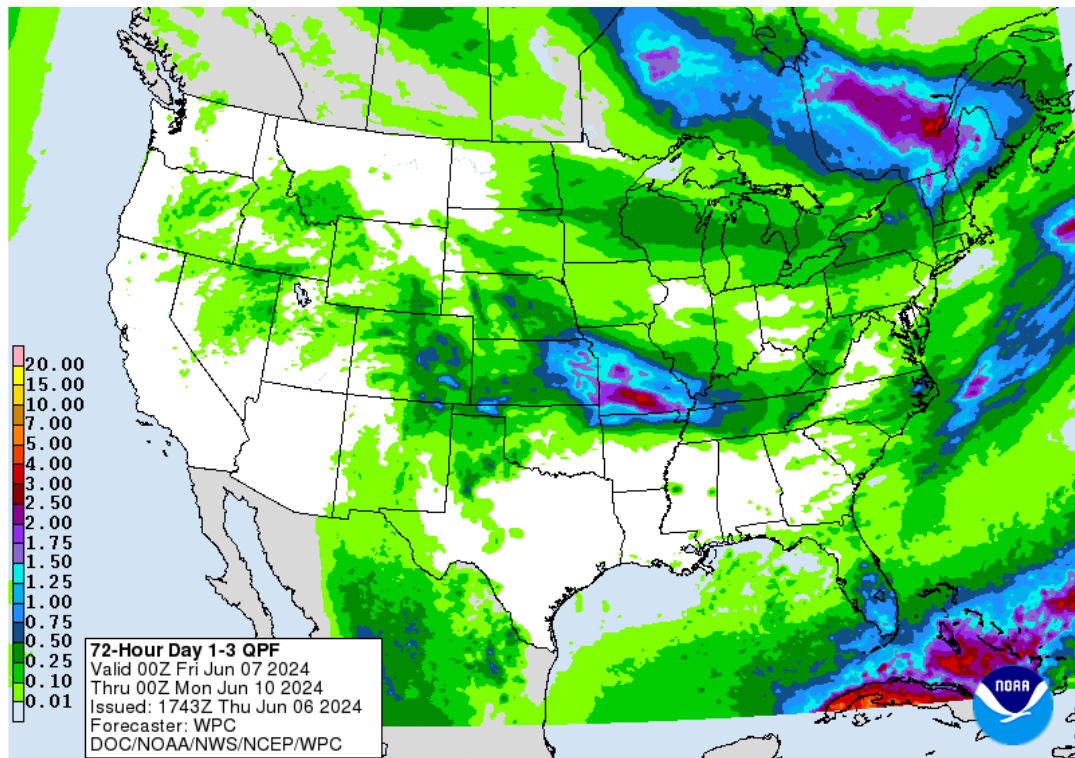
Photo credit: Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

## Weather Update

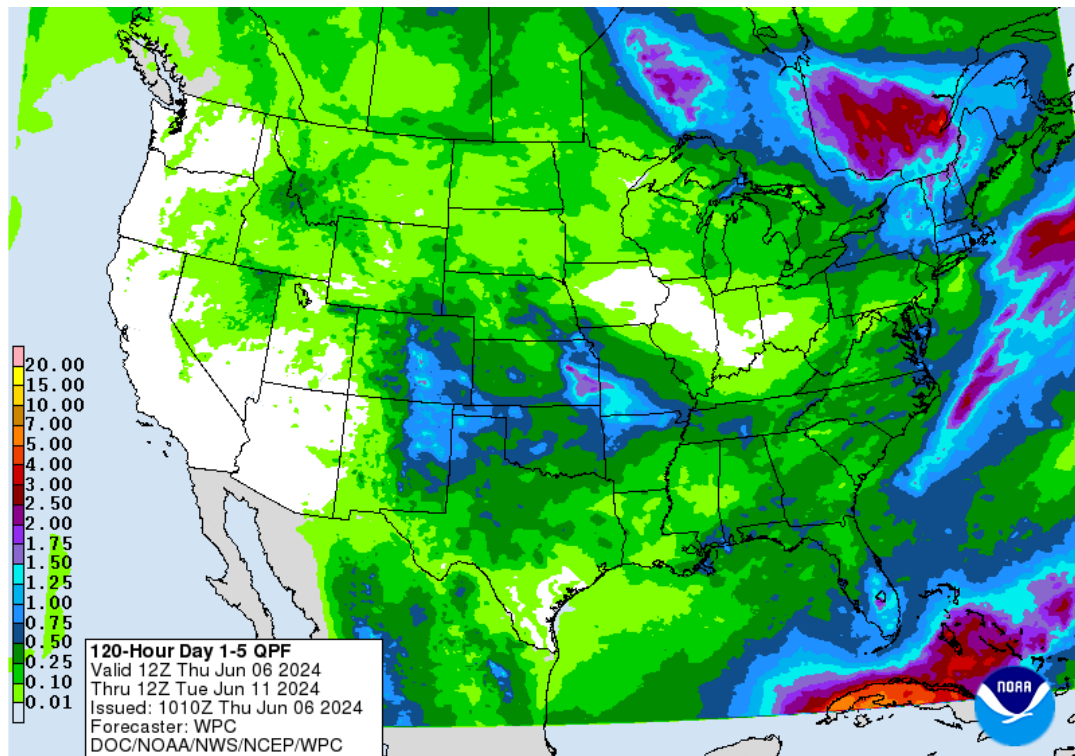


# Weather Update continued

## Days 1-3 Precipitation Forecast



## Days 1-5 Precipitation forecast



**The Cotton Comments newsletter is maintained by Maxwell Smith, Assistant Extension Specialist. If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send a request to: [maxwell.smith@okstate.edu](mailto:maxwell.smith@okstate.edu).**

**Maxwell Smith  
Assistant Extension Specialist  
16721 US Highway 283  
Altus, OK 73521  
Office- 580-482-2120  
Email- [maxwell.smith@okstate.edu](mailto:maxwell.smith@okstate.edu)**

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Robert E. Whitson, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President, Dean, and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The pesticide information presented in this publication was current with federal and state regulations at the time of printing. The user is responsible for determining that the intended use is consistent with the label of the product being used. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow label directions. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.