COTTON
PRODUCTION CALENDAR

JANUARY
Variety selection. Research official and on-farm variety trial data.
County meetings. Check alabamacrops.com or the Alabama Crops app for schedules.

FEBRUARY
Variety selection. Research official and on-farm variety trial data.
County meetings. Check alabamacrops.com or the Alabama Crops app for schedules.

MARCH
Burn down cover crops and weeds 2 to 3 weeks before planting. Check herbicide labels for plant-back restrictions.
Planting preparations. Field placement of varieties. Check seed and product inventories. Check equipment and spare parts.

APRIL
Application of phosphorus and potassium. Maintain in upper medium range as per a soil test.
Preplant nitrogen application. One-third total.
Preplant sulfur and zinc applications.
Early planting end of April. Scout for thrips. Spray at 1- to 2-leaf stage according to thresholds.
In-furrow insect/nematicide applications.
Preemergence herbicide applications at planting.

MAY
Planting. 4-inch soil temperture above 65ºF and a 5-day forecast with no cool temperatures.
Scouting. Scout for thrips on May plantings. Spray at 1- to 2-leaf stage according to thresholds.
In-furrow insect/nematicide applications.
Preemergence herbicide applications at planting.
Postemergence herbicide applications. Side-dress nitrogen between first square and first bloom, two-thirds total.
First boron application. 0.25 lb/A at first square.

JUNE
Late planting by first week with intensive management and irrigation.
Apply PGRs. Earlier plantings. Variety and growth condition dependent.
Postemergence herbicide applications.
Second B application. 0.25 lb/A before first bloom.
Plant growth monitoring. Start at 8- to 10-leaf stage.
Scouting. Every 3 to 6 days. Monitor for plant bugs. Spray according to thresholds. Hand-pull escaped pigweed.
Tissue and petiole sampling. To prescribe layby and foliar feeding fertilizer applications.
Irrigation. 1 in/week at FB (high yield, soil type dependent).

JULY
Insecticide application. According to thresholds.
Fungicide application. Upon initial disease detection before it's wide spread. Determine if a fungicide would be effective. Apply 1 to 4 weeks after FB or before canopy closes.
Apply PGRs. Later plantings or second application for aggressive growth varieties. Variety and growth condition dependent.
Foliar feeding. In K deficient hot spots during peak bloom (4.4 lb/A K_2O)
Irrigation. 1.5 to 2 in/week second to fourth week after FB (high yield, soil type dependent).
Scouting. Every 3 to 6 days. Clean up adult plant bugs and control nymphs if at thresholds. Monitor stink bugs, boll worm escapes, occasional pests. Hand-pull escaped pigweed.

AUGUST
Irrigation. High Yield—1.5 inches in fifth to sixth week after FB; 1 inch in seventh week after FB (soil type dependent).
Scouting. Every 3 to 6 days, spray according to thresholds. Monitor stink bugs, boll worm escapes, occasional pests. Hand-pull escaped pigweed.
Insecticide applications. Clean up adult plant bugs on later planted/irrigated cotton according to thresholds. Control stink bugs if at threshold.

SEPTEMBER
Defoliation/harvest aid application. 3 to 4 NACB. Formulation/rates depend on growth and temperatures.
Nematode Sampling. Optimum timing is when root systems are still well established and soil moisture is present.

OCTOBER
Picking. <12% moisture
Ginning. Keep modules/bales dry and monitor temperature. Increase of 20ºF or 120ºF reached, gin asap.
Cover crop selection.

NOVEMBER
Picking. <12% moisture
Ginning. Keep modules/bales dry and monitor temperature. Increase of 20ºF or 120ºF reached, gin asap.
Stalk destruction.
Soil testing. Fertility and nematode presence.
Plant cover crops.

DECEMBER
Ginning. Keep modules/bales dry and monitor temperature. Increase of 20ºF or 120ºF reached, gin asap.
Variety selection. Research official and on-farm variety trial data.
Application of lime. Adjust fields after soil testing to pH of 6.0.

FOR MORE INFO
Trey Cutts, Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor
trey.cutts@auburn.edu
www.alabamacotton.com

extension
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES