



## Season 5 Episode 11 — Wiregrass Roundup

**June 4, 2025**

Announcer

The Alabama Crops Report Podcast, your trusted information source for Alabama agriculture.

Scott Graham

Hey, everybody, welcome in to the Alabama Crop Report podcast. Simer, I guess we may call this an emergency podcast. We're, kind of short, very short notice recording. We've got.

Simer Virk

Less than 24 hours, less.

Scott Graham

Than 24 hour warning. We're going to try to talk about cotton, the situation we've got right now across the state. And then also just some thoughts about, you know, how light can we play? Can we plant? How, how do we manage late planting cotton, all those kinds of things. So in the room here in the Alfa Building on campus, we got Scott, Simmer, Ron Smith and Steve Brown, and then on zoom right now, we'll see if anybody else joins up.

Scott Graham

Right on cue. There's Cade. So on zoom we've got Cade Grace, Blake Lanton, Aaron Wells and Eddie McGriff. So we've got a good mix of, folks across, from north to south. And, like I said, if anybody else joins on, we'll we'll get input from them. So, guys, I guess we'll just, get into it so we can be a little brief with this.

Scott Graham

We'll start in South Alabama. Aaron, if you want to give us kind of an update on on what the cotton situation looks like, at least in your part of the state.

Aaron Wells

Yeah, I would say here in southeast Alabama, cotton was sort in a back seat to planting peanuts right now. Now, we had the cotton that was planted. I would say probably 65-70% of it would be planted this year was probably planted back before we really got kicked off with peanuts. The last week or so of April or first of May is when we actually got the early cotton in that is planted now. Folks, not on the, you know, the stalled on the ground.

Aaron Wells

And we said, hey, it's time to plant peanuts and we had some delays in peanut planting with some rain. We had about a week long delay, not quite a week. That's kind of really pushed us back a little bit, but I think maybe this week, and we want to probably be, finishing up peanuts if you haven't already.

Aaron Wells

And then they will get back on to some cotton planning. But what I will say, have seen, is somewhere around that second week in May, the pigweed really just really started taking off and I noticed up into that point fields were fairly clean of pigweed, but now the temperature has warmed up and all that.

Aaron Wells

So, the pigweed has become a force to be reckoned with in our area right now. It's to the point it's getting so large now that other than some really heavy tillage, it's going to take a lot to to start a field all this year and especially in this part.

Scott Graham

All right. Thanks. Aaron. All right. Blake, we'll just work up, up central Alabama now.

Blake Lanton

Yeah. Well, since Christy's not here, I'll kind of guesstimate what's going on. So I'll kind of talk, Dallas County and East first. Most of those guys are probably in okay shape. I mean, they should be getting close to finishing planting. I know there's a good bit of replant that's going to have to happen. And talking to Kris yesterday in his, peanut variety trial in Society Hill, he said got flooded out, planted about a week ago or so, maybe a little more.

Blake Lanton

Yeah, kind of what Aaron said. And, I would assume, Aaron, you're probably talking about some more conventional tilled stuff, but even in our no tilled stuff, pig weeds kind of took off this year. Morning glories too; some folks have had to spray morning glories just to stop them from choking out the cotton. And that was that was mid-May.

Blake Lanton

Now from Selma West. I haven't really been over there that much, but when we were getting, you know, 2 or 3 in of rain around Autaugaville, they were getting 5 to 8. So those guys are behind. I know there's one 10,000 acre grower. I think he's got about 3500 to 4000 acres planted and got another, you know, 6 to 7 to go.

Blake Lanton

Some guys over there, I would imagine, barely got started, with, soybeans and cotton. Corn crop, you know, looks good. But I know we're we're talking about, the dire situation at hand. It takes forever already to dry out in the Black Belt, so I would assume those guys are in pretty rough shape right now.

Scott Graham

Yep. All right, we'll continue the east or west. Eddie, if you want to give us an update from northeast Alabama.

Eddie McGriff

Yes, we've we've had rain all of May. It's been a pretty tough, pretty tough spring. I talked to Rich Lindsey, our ginner over in Cherokee County. He said about a quarter of the acres were planted. And then I would say that no more than a third of the acres that we normally planted would be planted to cotton. We got a lot of growers that are looking at prevented planning.

Eddie McGriff

They're going to take prevented planting. And we got some that are switching to soybeans. So we've we just had a really rough spring. All field actions had been delayed. And weed control and side dressing. We had very little cotton planted in that, first part of May, so the growers right now that are going to be planting are this has been really the first week that we've had good weather to plant cotton.

Eddie McGriff

So we've got a lot of farmers that are planting. I think we'll probably have maybe a third to maybe 40% of a crop in northeast Alabama. So it's it's going to be either prevented planting or soybeans in the other acres.

Scott Graham

All right. And, Cade, if you you'll cover northwest Alabama.

Cade Grace

Thank you. Scott, it's is kind of a a mixed bag up here. We have some some new records. Had the wettest May on record since 1893 in west Alabama and then I think the fifth, the fifth wettest in, the northwest part of the Tennessee Valley. And, you know, I mean, there were folks who got 14 inches of rain last month.

Cade Grace

There was some cotton that went in between the 15th and 25th of April, where they were drier and got a good stand. And, you know, that crop looks okay, but for the most part, acres are off pretty big, especially west of here. I drove yesterday, from here in Jasper, through Hamilton. It was Red Bay, traditionally pretty, pretty good little conventional, cotton growing areas, little pockets. You just, thousands of acres just laid out nothing. Nothing planned at all. I mean, nothing. And, there's a lot of a lot of PP cotton or prevented plant cotton. Some folks are going to beans, but folks at plant cotton, plant cotton, and, we've just run out of time up here.

Cade Grace

You, you know, you just don't see cotton planted past about the the 5th or 6th of June. And, um we're just rolling the dice. I think there will be some acres going to soybeans, but you know —rain in the forecast again. You know, there's some growers up here that plant 3 or 4000 acres of cotton and might have 400 acres planted, I think probably in this part of West Alabama, cotton acres would be about a third of what they usually are in the Tennessee Valley, they're a little bit drier up there on some of that red ground. A lot of the high ground got planted. It's just the bottoms that didn't. So I would say that it'll be probably half to to maybe 60%, up there, but still off from, from what you know, usually is. There's a lot of corn in the valley this year.

Simer Virk

Yeah. Gotcha. I guess that kind of brings us to, we have Dr. Steve Brown and Ron Smith here too. What what are our dates based on regions in our state where, you know? Because that's one thing I heard in the last week or two and looking at the weather, you know, how far can we stretch it out?

Simer Virk

And before growers like, okay, you really need to just stop or like, think about something or are there some areas where the grower may be thinking, hey, I can only plant like Cade said in the region, fifth or sixth, right? But do they have additional week or so? That might change someone's perceptions on that.

Ron Smith

Steve, you want to go ahead.

Steve Brown

Yeah, I don't know that I have absolute and there's no absolute numbers anywhere. I do know that farmers got to look at those crop insurance dates and make some decisions there. One comment we had before we began to talk was, what are the long-term weather trends for the year? Are we going to be warmer or cooler than normal, or are we going to be wetter or drier than normal?

Steve Brown

And so I think those can kind of give us some encouragement or stops on how we, you know, the risk are getting too great. So that's not any that's not the specific dates that you're looking for. But, I would also say Ron and I were talking a few moments ago that if we can achieve four weeks of bloom, we've got a good opportunity to make a reasonable crop.

Steve Brown

And so if the calendar dates worked out and the weather trends support that, that may tempt us to go a little later than our comfort zone. Or it might tell us to stop. So, I put those in the, in the mix in making my decisions. Because even if we had a good calendar date, that's general. That's what we've seen in history.

Steve Brown

But what what's this year going to look like? We don't know, but, so again, those would be some of the factors I would consider. Ron.

Ron Smith

Well, I would just say, I believe, all the regions are different. And even if you consider North Alabama, I believe the valley would be, different maybe than the Cherokee County area. And I think on top of that, the, the individual farm situations are different too. Some have better options and others or infrastructure in some areas, or better to switch to other crops and maybe, that, that option, infrastructure in other areas is not there for, for that switch.

Ron Smith

So it's it's, it's a real complicated thing. And in the end, each individual grower probably is going to have to, to make that decision based on his economics and, and, options that he considers he has on his farm. I do believe that we need to think in terms, though, that we've got shorter maturing varieties, earlier maturing varieties now that that really, set a crop in a hurry and, and, we also in recent years, the heat units, have been, have been elevated.

Ron Smith

So everything happens faster. And I think we forget how fast cotton will mature when we plant a little bit later because it comes up growing, assuming weather and everything is okay. So I'm going to say that, we could possibly — I've given some thought to this and looked at how, how many and node, fruiting nodes a cotton plant could put on and what kind of yield potential we could have, but I believe that, I believe we if we really want to plant cotton, we can plant some of our varieties today, as late as June the 10th, and still get four good weeks of bloom.

Ron Smith

Steve. And I'll go back to that. Let's just say we we're going we're going to start putting on pinhead squares that, at the fifth node. If I can get to 14 nodes, that gives me nine nodes. They're coming on about every three days apart. That's about 27, 28 days. Then that that I'm going to grow cotton.

Ron Smith

And then this matter of just maturing it, none of us know what the weather's going to be like in September, but that pushes everything back. The moisture conditions and everything have to be pretty much ripe for germination. When we've planted, it's got to come up growing and, and then we've got to, we've got to have the heat units and, and the rainfall.

Ron Smith

Now, we were thinking with too much rainfall, but we would have to have rainfall under that, late planting, Instead of mid-July to mid-August. We've got to have rainfall from 1st of August to mid-September when we're filling bolls. So, there's a lot of factors, but I have seen cotton with 14 nodes. That's nine fruiting nodes.

Ron Smith

And, if everything sets, and if we manage insects and weather, we have adequate moisture, we can make 800 to 1000 pounds with today's varieties on nine fruiting nodes. And I've got, I've got pictures of, some fields, in 2024

now that were not late planet, but they only had about 14 nodes and they picked, they paid close to 1,000 pounds, near the airport in Centre, Alabama.

Scott Graham

One one thing you just mentioned there that will be very important is insect management. You know, we can't afford to to have any delays in maturity. You know, when you're planting in April, if you lose a couple of squares to plant bugs pre bloom. You got plenty of time to overcome it. In late planted cotton, you don't, so that that's one thing.

Scott Graham

And, Steve, I think, you know, maintaining early square retention promotes earliness, which is another big factor. But all season long, even once we get out of bloom, we can't let insects slow us down or delay our maturity at all because that's, you know, 3 or 4 days could be the difference in that frost hitting or not. I remember when I first started, I was calling around some extension people and some people, not with extension farmers or, you know, retailers, whatever.

Scott Graham

Just what's what's your last effective bloom date? Because that's important for insect management, of course. And, I'll never forget one of the comments was I can tell you exactly when it is. I said, okay. And he said tell me when the first frost is going to be. And it is kind of a guessing game. Of course, we can use history to have an idea of what that is, but we really need to make sure, like Ron and Steve, y'all both said, we have at least four good weeks of bloom.

Ron Smith

Let me let me come back and say one more thing here. And, Steve, you may, let me squeeze this in. PGR management is going to be really, really important. And we've got to realize how sensitive our current varieties, the newer varieties are to to correct PGR management. Low dosage multiple applications will will speed this up ten days at least, or shorten the maturity season and and add to add to a number of fruit also.

Steve Brown

I'll throw a little kink into this discussion. I think sometimes when we get under real warm conditions, our node of first fruit may move up the plant a little bit, which will push us back to node 6 or 7. But still, I think I think the the interval between nodes and fruit may be even two, two and excuse me, two and a half days rather than three.

Steve Brown

So we, we can, we can do it. But I think aggressive insect control, probably aggressive PGR control, as you suggested. If it's not, if we're not on the too dry side and, and then, one of the things I would say is we don't want to be aggressive on nitrogen. In fact, most, most recommendations would be that we should pull back on nitrogen, maybe 20%.

Steve Brown

We certainly don't want to be dark, dark green into October. And, you know, if we normally use an 100 pounds, maybe we were looking at 80 to 75 pounds. So, you know, it's not a beauty contest of, hey, we want cotton. Look, dark green, dark green. We want to make fruit. And if it's if we are too aggressive there, it can hurt us, so.

Simer Virk

On the same note, I was going to ask you because I've, I've heard kind of mixed, recommendations on when we get in a situation of late planting. What, what is our seeding rate kind of need to be adjusted to? Like I've heard like some say, you need to up it a little bit to make sure that you have enough.

Simer Virk

Stand there and then, like the others are like, well, we get a pullback, you know.

Steve Brown

So yeah, I think I really think you avoid the extremes. We if we have good moisture, which we got us maybe too good.

Simer Virk

We have too much moisture.

Steve Brown

So we know the cotton's going to come out of the ground. So we're not under planting under cool, stressful conditions where we've got to up the seeding rate. However, when you have a too, when your stand is too thin, you get more branching and you take more time to make the fruit. And that probably is more critical as we move to the northern part of the state.

Steve Brown

They don't want to be too thin. On the other hand, if you get too thick, you, you got to move fruiting nodes up. And so, you know, two plants per foot is a good target. I've seen some of the data that suggest you probably need to bump your seeing rates a little bit. So I just, I think we avoid the extremes.

Steve Brown

That's, that's

Simer Virk

So have a, have a seeding rate adjusted accordingly. So you have a two emerged plants per foot

Steve Brown

Yeah. Close to that.

Simer Virk  
Yeah. Okay.

Ron Smith  
So that's that kind of what we're already talking about. So really we're not talking about changing our seeding rate very much from our normal planting date.

Steve Brown  
I tend to agree with that. I think, again, the northern part of the state is going to they're going to be planting closer to three per foot, three seed per foot as we move south. They're going to be two and sometimes they're cheating two.

Simer Virk  
One and a half. Or something.

Steve Brown  
Yes. That's right. So I think just avoid the extremes.

Scott Graham  
Well, we're talking a lot in the Alfa building. Anybody out in the state, the guys on zoom have anything to add?

Blake Lanton  
Well Simer. Simer got my question. I was about to ask what we do about seeding rates. But I guess, you know, really thinking about the prevented planting. If you have already got fertilizer out there, is that how will that influence your decision? That's what, in Tuscaloosa last week with, some farmers and and that's pretty much what they said, that they were looking at prevented planting, but their insurance guy said since they'd already had a good bit of their fertilizer out up front, that they weren't going to come out good taking the insurance.

Scott Graham  
Yeah, that that's something I talked with somebody earlier this week about, you know, what to do. And I mean, at the end of the day, it's a business. And you got to run some economics and just see what whether you're talking about prevented planting or, you know, swap swapping crops or you shooting for an 850 pound yield, you just got to look at what's going to make the most or lose the least amount of money and, and just kind of make a decision.

Scott Graham  
But it's a very difficult one to make.



Ron Smith

So I guess what we're saying is, farming is a high risk and a high challenge business. And, we're seeing the extremes of it this year.

Simer Virk

Yeah, yeah.

Steve Brown

One obvious thing we haven't mentioned, though maybe we did allude to it. We've got some varieties that are on the more, fuller spectrum of maturity. We've got others that can fruit faster and quicker. So we, we would tend to vote towards the early maturing varieties in general. So I think that's pretty obvious though I have seen some situations where whatever yields best, yields best whenever it's planted.

Simer Virk

But yeah.

Ron Smith

Yeah, but if you look at the spectrum of varieties that are available today, the newer ones, all of them are earlier maturing than what we have experienced over most of our careers. Going 1646 and before then, 55 or 90, all those were great varieties, but much, much longer season for a more full season than about any choices today.

Scott Graham

Maybe not all of our careers. Well.

Steve Brown

One other thing is. We, as much as possible, we want to avoid setting the crop back from stresses such as herbicide injury. Now, my opinion is if you if you got weed, you got to kill them. You got to do whatever it takes. But but you want to minimize that as a stress as well. So and other stressors you don't want to—I just saw a crop outside of the building here and it got burned with something. Somebody put some fertilizer on and burned it and set it back again. Those sorts of things we want to minimize.

Simer Virk

Yeah. I guess the wet weather is also going to prevent a lot of other applications, not just for, you know, like getting nitrogen out and other. I know we're, we're talking reducing the rates and stuff, but it's you still got to apply something, right?

Steve Brown

Yeah. Oh Yeah yeah.

Scott Graham

So something we haven't mentioned yet either. Cade kind of alluded to a little bit. Some of that early you know April planted cotton in North Alabama. I've got some at Belmont at the station. It's not even squaring yet. Even the early planted cotton is not because it's just been so waterlogged. It's not growing like you expect it to.

Scott Graham

So all that, we still probably need to manage some of that for earliness, which obviously they do in North Alabama anyway. But just something to think about.

Steve Brown

Do you, do you feel like and I'm feel a little out of touch here, but do you feel like it's been a little cooler than normal than we might see, or we have less heat units, or is it waterlogged? And I know waterlogged certainly is gonna.

Scott Graham

Cade lives up there. He can speak to about. I'm up there once a week or every two weeks.

Ron Smith

And also remember, we've been a tremendous amount of cloudy weather conditions.

Cade Grace

Okay. It's kind of a, three-pronged approach here. Feel like we've been a little cooler for the most part. Lots and lots of cloudy days. And we're just now having, I guess, average temperatures and but, you know, it's — with it raining 22 days last month. I mean, that that really hurts your heat units there.

Cade Grace

And plants' ability to do photosynthesis is not as robust when it's that cloudy. And the same for April in parts of April. But you're talking about being waterlogged. I saw a field yesterday that it had so much rain on it, it looked like he had been burned down because of the amount of water and the lack of oxygen.

Steve Brown

Year.

Cade Grace

That's just how much rain we've had in spots. It is pretty crazy. Fields I've never seen not played in my whole life. Yeah. Or laid out and.

Scott Graham

So there's something else with that too, is it at least they always said back home, you want a little drought stress in early season cotton to make that taproot go down a little bit further so you're closer to moisture later in the season. And that's probably not going to happen this year. So that that might set us up for a little bit more issues with drought stress late in the year if we have that.

Ron Smith

That's that's a good point, Scott. And, Cade, if I'm not mistaken, there is another weather front that's on the way today to pretty much cover this coming weekend. Am I correct?

Cade Grace

It looks like Saturday and Sunday are pretty wet. The model, the models have, you know, anywhere from, an inch to. I guess about 3.5 inches in the next seven days. We don't we don't need it. So hopefully it's just like Blake and I talked about earlier this morning. Hopefully, it's just more of a, like a scattered pattern that we're moving to, a normal June, scattered afternoon showers.

Cade Grace

But, I guess that's to be determined. What actually happens. And you know how that can be sometimes. Sometimes a pop-up can come and it'll sit there and drop 2 or 3 inches on you. You get 2 or 3 inches dropped on you three times in a week. You're back to to where you were, even though you gained 4 or 5 days that you could have done field work this week.

Ron Smith

So one thing I was thinking about last night, you know, in most areas there are larger tracts of land and then they've got smaller tracts of land that are, fields that normally go into cotton. Assuming you can get into the fields, your planting efficiency would be, higher as far as cover and acres to try to plant the big tract first and not waste time up and down the road, going to the the 5 to 15 acre fields, which, you find in some areas.

Ron Smith

So, you know, I know you've got to consider moisture, but that might be another thought. And I'm sure they have. They're thinking the same way. The more acres you can plant, the quicker, open for a few more days. If want to plant cotton would be the way to do it. Plant as many acres possible as fast as you can.

Simer Virk

Blake and I were talking about this yesterday because, we got some growers across the state with high-speed planters and large planters and, you know, like, even 24 row. I'm like, they actually have a little bit of advantage in a way, when they can get going, they can cover some land, you know, and interestingly, Eddie and I have a trial with the McMichens.

Simer Virk

And I was talking to Matt almost a week or so ago, and he's like, we're just waiting for those few 2 or 3 days. And he even had done the math on that when they start going and they have two high speed planters, and if he can even run at 8 or 9mph and plant, he said, I need 50 hours of straight running to cover everything I can, you know?

Simer Virk

So so it's definitely in a way, you know, large equipment or technology in some situations like this here could definitely help you at least get your crop planted.

Steve Brown

Yeah, absolutely. Go ahead.

Ron Smith

No, I'm sorry I'm not seeing more after this. But bottom line, we got a few more days to plant cotton. If the grower really wants to plant cotton,

Steve Brown

I'll talk about the end game, which is we're way ahead of ourselves. But I was thinking about this. If we get out, if we've got a late crop, how long do we let that crop grow before we terminate? Let's say we got a crop. If we got green bolls out there, you know, they're pretty mature, but we want more time, but we got this cold front coming. One thing I would say is if you watch the weather and you know a killing frost is coming. Now light frost is going to probably help you turn the plant and take green out of it. But. But a killing frost, which I think we're going to have to see below 30 for for several hours.

Steve Brown

You want to be 4 or 5 days ahead of that with your, with your defoliation program to try to open. Get those bones open. I've seen people say, oh, God, it's going to it's going to frost tomorrow. Tomorrow. Should I spray today? Well no, you need you need several days in between. Again. 4 or 5 days at least.

Steve Brown

If you're watching the weather now, get a light frost. I might, I may ride it, but if I knew. Hey, I'm going to see 25 degrees and I got a green crop out there. I'm going to probably hit it with my ethephon. Aggressive approach, trying to force as much open as possible.

Simer Virk

That's a good.

Steve Brown

That's way out.

Simer Virk

There. Yeah. So the other thing I was thinking, and I know one of our recommendations right now, what we're talking about on this late planting is are better varieties. Or we have short season, fast maturing varieties. All that. I mean, a lot of growers already ordered their seed back early in the year and all that, and they may have a stock of all this seed that they planned on getting planted in May or something.

Simer Virk

Right? Now we're sitting on a seed that may not be that maturity. You know, I'm not a seed guy, but I'm just thinking about so how do they is the seed even available for them to go swap out or change?

Steve Brown

I suspect acres are down enough that if, if it hasn't been downstream treated. They can take them back. They'll take them back in. That bag has been opened and retreated at the local vendor. They, they, they, they're not going to take that back.

Ron Smith

And Simer, I had some feedback that ten days or more ago that they had already exchanged some seed for earlier maturing.

Simer Virk

So they still have an opportunity to exchange seed at this point.

Blake Lanton

And I think that's going to be based on location, because that's exactly what I told some farmers the other day. I was like, you know, maybe try and get you a shorter season variety once you get back in. And he said, well, we're probably only going to be able to get what they've got. At wherever they were buying seed from, he said so we're most likely stuck with with what we got or we're at their mercy.

Simer Virk

Okay. Any any last, I know you want to kind of emphasize...

Ron Smith

Well, that just what I said earlier. If the grower really, really wants to plant cotton, we've got another, ten days plus, I would go up to around the 20th.

Simer Virk

Mkay.

Steve Brown

I feel a lot more comfortable as you go to the southern extremes, but, but as you get north. Yeah. But you get more nervous when we get past the date.

Ron Smith

There's no question it gets risky. That's when you don't. If you if you got other alternatives you like, then move to them. But if you don't, that's my cutoff date just about.

Steve Brown

Also think the, the southern area, that's where we have cotton and peanut production together. They're not going to soybeans, I don't think of course I'm not a soybean fan. I'm a negative.

Simer Virk

Soybeans. (laughs)

Steve Brown

But but in that rotation and I don't see them go into soybeans, but I, you know, I don't. What do you all think?

Scott Graham

Well, that's another situation where who's got soybeans sitting in the, in the, you know, store. They don't grow soybeans down there. Right. It might be hard to get them.

Ron Smith

If it comes harvest time. Where are they going to put their soybeans if they're not set up with the infrastructure to to really be in the soybean business?

Simer Virk

Yeah. I, I guess we, I Eddie, Aaron, Blake, and Cade, I guess maybe some of some final remarks from you all, maybe more specific to your region, any any recommendation, anything for your growers. Before we wrap up.

Eddie McGriff

I would say one thing is where growers, planted cotton and use Cotoran, and they want to come back and plant soybeans. That's not going to be an option because of the plant back restrictions. So we do have some cotton that needs to be replanted. And that's they're either going to have to go back in the cotton or take prevented planting. if they've already applied the the Cotoran pre-emergent, it's not going to be an option to go back in soybean because we just don't have enough time and we don't want to ding those beans up, and, and, and have a poor yield on soybeans. That's not going to work at all.

Aaron Wells

I would say in our area there has been a little talk of some people planting some soybeans but, like you mentioned earlier, the, rotation of peanuts is an issue and proximity of the markets. For us, it's not great for soybeans. Well, in cotton standpoint in southeast Alabama, the final planting date for crop insurance is actually tomorrow, or on June the 5th in southeast Alabama. There is a late planting period, through, up until June 15th.

Aaron Wells

And so biggest thing is I would really encourage growers, to talk with their crop insurance agents from the business standpoint of things. Find out, you know, they don't want to do anything that's going to jeopardize, any kind of potential prevented planting or anything like that. So on top of all these other things that we've mentioned, like Eddie mentioned, about the residual herbicides that may be out there, we really need to get on the phone with your insurance agent.

Aaron Wells

Well, wait for sure. It's more than that, it's the policy as well.

Simer Virk

Blake.

Blake Lanton

Yeah, I'll just kind of reiterate what Dr. Brown said earlier. You know, if you're going to do it, do whatever you can to to mitigate any of those stresses. You know, some of this slow growing stuff around here. Again, we had like 50-degree mornings after we planted and stuff was slow growing and, some farmers and I talked about, you know, not not putting any residuals over the top to do any more dinging up than what's already happened to get the stuff growing and on its way to making a crop.

Blake Lanton

So, that'd be the big thing there. We've got to make it happen as fast as we can and not do anything on our part to slow it down.

Simer Virk

Cade.

Cade Grace

I agree. And and just, the PGR management this year is going to be extremely important. Extremely important. So guys that let cotton get a little rank. I hope that maybe because they've got less acres this year, maybe they can pay attention a little better to to managing the PGR on that cotton. I've talked to a few growers that have taken prevented plant and they're going to, you know, work on some other things during this time besides managing the crop that they've got, you know, looking at their soil fertility and going ahead and taking taking some samples and doing some field work and, you know, just it's it's kind of crazy to think that if you're going to have some, some free time on your hands because you filed prevented plant. But also that's the folks have been talking with their crop insurance agents making sure that if they've got a written agreement or, county by county, you know, dates can change. So and I would encourage everybody to, to know your dates and to make sure that, you know, that you're doing what you need to, to stay eligible for that.

Ron Smith

Simer, let me come back and say one more thing. And that relates to where we do have cotton planted. We we've everybody said we're going to have fewer acres. Well, pests such as tarnished plant bugs, once they come off the wild host plants, they're going to be concentrating on those fewer acres. So we've set up to have, have, a high influx and Scott you can talk about this, but, movement of plant bugs into cotton. The other thing I want to say is in in the years that we've had a lot of crazy cotton caused by plant bug feeding, it's when we've had wet springs and delayed planting, and and the plant bugs move into cotton when it's still pre-square. Not even, not even that's the fifth node.

Ron Smith

And they'll feed in the terminal which gives us crazy cotton. So those are things that we would need to be conscious of on the acres where we are, where we do have planted.

Simer Virk  
Good point.

Scott Graham  
Yep. Absolutely.

Scott Graham  
All right, guys, we'll, appreciate you all short-notice coming on to, the, the, you know, talk with us, record with us this episode. I wish we had something a little bit better to talk about, but, we're going to... Yeah, we here at Alabama Extension are here to support any way we can for everybody out there.

Scott Graham  
If any of us can ever do anything to help, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. And, we'll, we'll continue talking about this and other things as the season progresses.

The Alabama Crops Report is a production of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Announcer

The Alabama Crops Report Podcast is a production of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.