

AgriLife Extension Announces New 2017 Crop Hail-Out and Replant Guide

June 22, 2017

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LUBBOCK – The latest Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service crop hail-damage assessment and replant guide is now available, said its author.

Dr. Calvin Trostle, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist at Lubbock, said Texas farmers in the Lubbock and South Plains region regularly face the risk of hailed-out crops this time of year. When it occurs, especially on cotton, he advises, growers may need to wait up to a week before determining the fate of their hail-hammered crop.

Should they stay with the crop, fallow the rest of the season, or replant? To help them navigate through the options, Trostle recently published his 15th annual “2017 Alternative Crop Options after Failed Cotton and Late-Season Crop Planting for the Texas South Plains.”

“That lengthy title pretty well sums up what this crop management tool is all about,” Trostle said.

The document, posted at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu>, is updated annually in June. It encompasses everything from assessing damaged cotton stands, to herbicide precautions, and basic agronomics including the last recommended planting dates for various crops including grain sorghum, sunflower, guar and black-eyed peas with hybrid, or variety maturity data added where applicable.

Dr. Seth Byrd, AgriLife Extension cotton agronomist at Lubbock, said Trostle’s work is invaluable, because assessing a damaged cotton stand can be tough.

“Farmers need to be patient, because it sometimes takes a week before you know what the survival rate of cotton plants on a hailed-out field will be,” Byrd said. “This is important this late in the season as a damaged stand with as little as 1.5 plants per foot of row may still be a keeper, especially if the plants are uniformly spaced.”

Danny Nusser, AgriLife Extension regional program leader at Amarillo, said the publication offers good timely information for AgriLife Extension agents and producers alike.



Corn seedlings can sometimes survive extreme weather as illustrated here following a May storm near Lubbock. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Calvin Trostle)

“Producers may be surprised that they even have options, and that viable crop replanting and late planting options are available as late as mid-July, he said. “And this is especially true moving south from Lubbock.”

When Trostle began the guide in the early 2000s, he never thought it would become the comprehensive document it is today.

“The guide reflects a lot of what I have learned about farming in the Southern High Plains region,” he said. “And truthfully, preparing it every year may help me as much as anyone to deliver sound science-based advice to growers.”

For more information, contact Trostle at 806-746-6101, or ctrostle@ag.tamu.edu.

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