2012

FOLIAR FERTILITY TEST

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SUMMARY

A foliar application of Monty's Plant Food 8-16-8 (78 oz) and their carbon product (39 oz) applied at first square, did not result in a statistical yield increase. Economic returns were negative by the cost of the product and application.

PROBLEMS

With increased fertilizer costs, some producers are considering using specialty fertilizer products to increase yields. Very little research has been done on some of these.

OBJECTIVE

Determine if foliar applications increased yield or quality in drip irrigated cotton.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field for this test received 8 inches of pre-irrigation through drip. The plots were 12 rows wide on a 40" 2x1 pattern. They were planted to Fibermax 2484 B2F on May 25th. Glyphosate (32 oz) was applied 2 times over the top for weed control. Ten inches of in-season irrigation was applied to the plots. All plots received 60 units of N, 50 units of Phosphorus and 25 units of Potassium through the drip system. The treated plots were sprayed on July 14th with 24 oz of 8-16-8 and 16 oz of carbon per acre. Four rows of each plot were harvested on October 25th with a picker and weighed in a boll buggy. Samples were ginned at Lubbock and a lint sample was analyzed for fiber quality and loan value. Statistical analysis to determine varietal or treatment mean differences was performed using two factor Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) in Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS, DISCUSSION AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

There were no statistical differences at the .05 level between any of the treatments and the check as seen in Table 1. These results show a negative return to the farmer of the foliar and application costs. This field has a good overall fertilizer program that supplies all needed nutrients.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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TABLE 1: YIELD QUALITY AND ECONOMIC DATA FOR COTTON FOLIAR FERTILITY TEST,

ERIC SEIDENBERGER FARM 2012.

Fibermax 2484 B2F

Plant Date 05/25/12

Harvested 10/25/12

			Fiber Quality						
	Yield Per Acre		----------						Lint
	In Pounds	% Turnout		Fiber				CCC	Gross
	----------	----------	Color-	Length		Strength		Loan	Return
Variety	Lint	Lint	Leaf	(staple)	Mic	(gram/tex)	Uniformity	Value	($/acre)
TREATED AVG	1779A	38.5	213	37	3.9	31.9	81.7	57.00	1013.88
UNTREATED AVG	1787A	37.9	211	38	3.9	32.0	81.4	57.62	1029.79

Data followed by the same letter are statistically equal.