2012 Evaluation of Insecticide Oversprays for Control of Bollworms in Transgenic Bt Cotton

Stephen Biles, Roy Parker, Clyde Crumley, Dale Mott,
Rick Minzenmayer, Kerry Siders and Monti Vandiver

Abstract:

A trial was conducted to determine if any benefit is gained by treating Bt cotton for caterpillars and if yield is enhanced by insecticide alone without pest present. Field trials were conducted at nine sites across Texas on Bollguard II or Widestrike cotton once during the first two weeks of bloom. Few bollworms and minimal feeding injury was detected in the trial areas. This project was not able to determine if any benefit was gained by treating Bt cotton for caterpillars because few caterpillars were found in the test areas. Combined data from nine locations did not show yield response to insecticide application. The results of this research project indicate yield was not enhanced by insecticide applications in the absence of caterpillar pests.

Objectives:

1. Determine if any benefit is gained by treating Bt cotton for caterpillars.
2. Determine if yield is enhanced by insecticide alone without pest present.

Methods:

Field trials were conducted at nine sites across Texas. These locations included College Station, Wharton, Port Lavaca, Corpus Christi, Ballinger, Levelland, and Muleshoe, Texas. Insecticides were applied for bollworm control on Bollguard II or Widestrike cotton once during the first two weeks of bloom. Treatments were as follows:

1. Untreated
2. Prevathon 14 or 20 oz/a
3. Belt + Mustang Max 2 + 3.6 oz/a
4. Besiege 8 or 6.5 oz/a
5. Mustang Max 3.6 oz/a

Surviving bollworms and feeding injury were counted at 3 and 7 days after treatment. Yield was measured at harvest time.

Few bollworms and minimal feeding injury was detected in the trial areas. The highest worm population in East Texas and Coastal Bend tests was 2.5 small worms per 100 plants. No worms found in the West Texas trials. One Coastal Bend location found Cotton square borers at population below 13 per 100 plants. None of these insect populations are thought to be economic, yield limiting populations on cotton.

Results:

This project was not able to determine if any benefit was gained by treating Bt cotton for caterpillars because few caterpillars were found in the test areas.

Yield differences were found at the Wharton location with the Prevathon and Belt/Mustang Max treatments having more lint yield than the other treatments and untreated control (Table 1). Yield differences were not found at the other eight test sites.

Yield data from each trial location was normalized to the untreated control and the means were used as nine replications to compare the treatments across location (Table 2). Combined data from nine locations did not show yield response to insecticide application.

The results of this research project indicate yield was not enhanced by insecticide applications in the absence of caterpillar pests.

Table 1. Lint Yields for insecticide treatments applied to Bt cotton at nine locations in Texas.

	Ballinger	Wharton	College Station	Levelland	Corpus Christi
	FM 2484 GLB2	FM 1944 B2RF	Phy 499 WRF	Phy 367 WRF	Phy 367 WRF
1Untreated Check	1186.8	1372.5b	997.85	632	2065.631
2Prevathon	1064.5	1651.8a	1059.363	672.3	2215.276
3Belt/Mustang Max	1019.3	1690.3a	969.325	686	2201.288
4Besiege	1011.3	1457b	1007.213	616	2231.578
5Mustang Max	1127.3	1412b	1096.55	678.8	2202.922
LSD (P=.05)	176.1	148.48	129.8892	121.27	308.76358
Standard Deviation	116.86	98.54	86.1995	80.48	204.90738
CV	10.8	6.5	8.4	12.25	9.39
Treatment Prob(F)	0.2182	0.0008	0.2795	0.6718	0.7873

	Muleshoe	Port Lavaca1	Port Lavaca2	Port Lavaca3
	FM 9063 B2F	Phy 499 WRF	DP 1044 B2RF	DP 1044 B2RF
1Untreated Check	582.3	1129.33	1396.28	1447.93
2Prevathon	487.8	1211.73	1375.25	1499.23
3Belt/Mustang Max	424.3	1219.75	1436.18	1478.93
4Besiege	599.8	1159.83	1524.83	1455.28
5Mustang Max	480	1053.35	1350.08	1369.13
LSD (P=.05)	218.1	214.814	237.593	96.99
Standard Deviation	144.74	142.559	157.676	64.367
CV	28.12	12.34	11.13	4.44
Treatment Prob(F)	0.4165	0.4849	0.5733	0.0987

Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, LSD)

Table 2. Lint yields normalized to the untreated control for insecticide treatments applied to Bt cotton across nine locations in Texas.

Treatment	Normalized Yield
1Untreated Check	100.0
2Prevathon	103.7
3Belt/Mustang Max	101.9
4Besiege	103.0
5Mustang Max	100.4
LSD (P=.05)	10.049
Standard Deviation	6.669
CV	6.55
Treatment Prob(F)	0.9177

Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, LSD)