

INTRODUCTION

Cotton performance trials were conducted during 2006 at Lubbock, Halfway, and Pecos, Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations. The Lamesa Dryland variety test was planted on the AG-CARES research farm. An irrigated variety test was also planted near Tulia on the Dale Swinburn farm and near Lamesa on the Donald Love farm.

The Lubbock Station tests were planted in either Amarillo or Olton soils, the Halfway Station tests in Pullman clay loam soils and the Pecos Station tests were planted in Hoban silty clay loam soils.

After having the record-shattering production season of 2005, it appeared that we were going to have considerable difficulty with the 2006 crop. We did not have the timely rains in 2006 that we had in 2005. The dry fall of 2005 carried over into the spring of 2006. Although certain areas received some substantial rain in March, April was mostly dry. The area north of Lubbock received some excellent rainfall in May.

2006 was probably the most difficult year to obtain a stand since 1988. These dry conditions combined with some inclement weather resulted in almost 1 million acres being failed.

The irrigated crop generally made good progress where producers could keep up with the water demands of the crop. Even with the loss of almost 1 million acres, this area produced approximately 4 million running bales which was the third largest crop.

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