Pesticide Disposal Day

Chowan County Extension, in partnership with NCDA, will offer a Pesticide Disposal Day on Wednesday, May 19. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

If you have old or unwanted pesticides call the Extension Office to pre-register the type and size of container you will be disposing of. Any pesticides in original containers and clearly labeled will be accepted. Containers greater than 5 gallons in size must be pre-registered. There is no charge for this service. For more information or to pre-register, call the office at 482-6585.
Planting Cotton in Dry Soils
Keith Edmisten, Extension Cotton Specialist

Soils are drying out rapidly across the state and many are wondering what they should do in terms of cotton planting.

a. Cotton seed can germinate from a depth of around 1.5 inches, but planting this deep is certainly risky. I would be less likely to take this risk if I had a low cool germ (less than 65%) seed lot and/or was planting on soils that crust. Often when planting deeper than optimum (below ½ to ¾ inches), you will see some cotton seed planted into moisture in some areas of the field and not into moisture in other areas. If you have soil crusting at some point you may not ever see these seed. Often you might see the seed planted into moisture emerge and the seed planted into dry soil become a victim of soil crusting. Hill-dropped planting can help reduce the effects of crusting but may not eliminate it. If you decide to plant deeper than normal to find moisture you are more likely to need to consider crust busting. Information on crust busting can be found here:

How successful you will be with this strategy will depend a lot on having high seed quality (cool germ), avoiding low soil temperatures during germination and either having soils that do not crust or getting lucky and not have crust causing conditions. I would definitely not want cotton seed to be struggling to emerge from deeper than normal planting depths with the low we have predicted for Saturday through Monday (48, 45 and 50 for Saturday, Sunday and Monday in Raleigh).

b. Another strategy is to "dust cotton in". This means you are not trying to plant into moisture and are depending on future rainfall to bring the seed up. The advantages of this strategy is you are more likely to get a uniform stand and by planting shallow you can minimize the effect of soil crusting. The old timers will tell you when you :dust cotton in" you should see a see on top of the ground now and then. You certainly do not want to plant deeper than ½ inch with this strategy.

c. Of course another option is to stop planting and to wait for moisture. It is still fairly early in the planting season so you will likely have better conditions. This Carolina Cotton Note shows that we still have time to plant: http://www.cotton.ncsu.edu/ccn/2001/ccn-01-3.htm. This of course depends on how much cotton you have to plant and how quickly you can plant your acreage.

Yield Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the 2009 Chowan County Yield Contest Winners and our two State Yield Winners.

Joe Ward - State Winner, Peanut Yield, 6,113.14 lb/A
Mike Pippins, Hayes Farm - State Winner, Milo, 113.35 bu/A
Yates Parrish and Son - Cotton Yield Winner, 1219.065 Total Points
Lynn Hobbs - Corn Yield Winner, Irrigated 193.838 bu/A; Non Irrigated: 170.7976 bu/A
Mike Pippins, Hayes Farm - Soybean Winner, 78.4 bu/A