

VARIETY RESPONSE OF STRIP-TILL COTTON INTO WINTER COVER CROPS AT GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

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INTERPRETIVE SUMMARY

Upland cotton is an alternative crop to support Florida farmers. The objective of this research was to determine best yielding varieties for strip-till cotton in three different cropping systems. Data show that 2.75 bales/acre of lint cotton can be produced by some varieties in north Florida using strip-till management. Five of the glyphosate tolerant varieties were among the top yielding. Sites with a long history of growing rye as the winter crop provided best yields in double cropping systems. Consideration should be given to greater precision in determining percent lint

when comparing yield among varieties. Nitrogen concentrations in diagnostic leaves should be in the range of 4.50 % to 5.00% for these high yielding glyphosate tolerant varieties in order to maximize lint and seed yield. Some unknown factor resulted in cotton yield being lower at sites with long histories of growing crimson clover and hairy vetch compared to rye.

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