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2009 NATIONAL COTTON FUSARIUM WILT REPORT

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Cotton cultivars and elite breeding lines submitted by 10 cooperators were evaluated for Fusarium wilt resistance under field conditions at the E. V. Smith Research Center, Plant Breeding Unit, Talladega, Alabama. These entries were grown on an Independence loamy fine sand highly infested with the Fusarium wilt fungus (*Fusarium oxysporum*) Schlect. f. *vasinfectum* [Atk.] (Snyd. & Hans.) and southern root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne incognita*).

In 2008, a soil analysis for nematodes revealed that southern root-knot (*Meloidogyne incognita*) was the predominant nematode species in the test plots. The North Fusarium wilt field plot contains a population of *M. incognita* that ranges from 155 to 1546 J2 per 150 cc of soil with a mean of 711 J2. The populations in the South Fusarium wilt field are lower with a range from 77 to 1004 J2 per 150 cc of soil and a mean population of 378. Other nematode genera present are stubby root (*Trichodorus* sp.) and stunt (*Tylenchorhynchus* sp.). Root-knot nematodes, however, appear to be causing the major damage to cotton in the Fusarium Wilt Test as indicated by the high galling indices found on the roots of all cotton lines. The root-knot nematode population throughout the entire test area, i.e., even the areas with the lowest root-knot nematode populations, is more than sufficient to cause a high incidence of Fusarium wilt.

Cotton lines submitted to the Fusarium Wilt Trial were examined to determine their response to both pathogens the root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita* race 3) and *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp *vasinfectum* (Table 2, page 10). The field has a long history of root-knot nematode infestation. Plots consisted of 1 row, 20 ft long, with 36 in row spacing and were planted in a randomized complete block design with four replications. All plots were maintained throughout the season using standard herbicide, insecticide, and fertility production practices as recommended by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Three plants per plot were removed on July 22. The fresh root weights were recorded and nematodes were extracted from the root system by shaking in 0.6% NaOCl counted under the inverted microscope. Fusarium was aseptically isolated on acidified potato dextrose media from systematic plants removed July. Data was statistically analyzed by GLM and means, compared using Fisher's protected least significant difference test. Monthly average maximum temperatures from June to October were 90.1, 86.7, 87.1, 81.2, and 70.1 °F; average minimum temperatures of 66.7, 66.4, 66.9, 64.6 and 50.2 °F. Total rainfall amounts from June to October were 1.1, 5.5, 4.2, 4.6, and 6.5 in. The total rainfall for the growing season was 21.9 in.

The 2009 season, environmentally, was conducive for the root-knot nematode and Fusarium wilt pathogens. The numbers of root-knot nematodes increase in all the cotton samples submitted. The standard susceptible cotton, Rowden, averaged 1150 root-knot J2 and eggs per gram of root while the M-315 resistant cotton supported 460 root-knot J2 and eggs per gram of root. Lonren 1 which was released as a reniform nematode resistant genotype, supported root-knot nematode numbers in between the susceptible Rowden and resistant M-315. Nematode juveniles and eggs extracted from the root systems for all the submission ranged from a high of 12,483 in PHY-MM1 to a low 242 in DJ-5. The reproductive potential observed varied widely from highly susceptible (PHY-MM1, PHY-FB2, PHY-FB7, FB-5, CW-1, FB-2, PHY-MM2) to low susceptibilities (DF-5, Dj-2, PHY-MM3, CW-5) depending on the cotton submission. Re-isolation of the Fusarium wilt fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *vasinfectum* was conducted to confirm the presence of the disease pathogen. The fungal pathogen was not found in the resistant M -315 cotton but was readily isolated from Rowden and Lonren 1. Over all the cotton submissions planted in 2009, 76.25% were colonized by *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *vasinfectum*.

Entries were planted in single 20-foot rows on 36-inch centers, separated by 6-foot alleys. Four replications of the test entries and checks were evaluated in a randomized complete block design with a split plot restriction on randomization. The set of eight test cultivars submitted by a cooperator was always evaluated as a group together with two control plots within each replicate. Both susceptible (Rowden) and resistant (M-315) cultivars were included as check subplots in the two center rows of each main plot (Fig. 1).

Lack of moisture delayed planting on May 20. Initial plant counts were made on June 26. Wilted plants were counted and removed on July 14, July 29, August 12, and August 26. The remaining live plants were counted and recorded on September 17. Total percent wilted plants were then determined and mean wilting for a given entry calculated.

The average % wilted plants for the susceptible check **Rowden** was 75%, with a range from 23 to 97% on an individual plot basis (Fig. 1). Wilt development was quite uniform in all blocks with rep averages ranging from 17 to 19%. The resistant check **M-315** had an average of 2% wilted plants, with a range of 0 to 13%. **Critical evaluations of breeding lines should be made relative to the Rowden check listed at the bottom of each group.**

Fig. 1. Field plot layout and % wilt for control plot of Rowden (susceptible) and M-315 (resistant). Distances (ft) from the SE corner of the trial are given in the left hand column and the bottom row.

NS	80	2	88	13
234	Rowden	M-315	Rowden	M-315
	90	2	86	1
208	Rowden	M-315	Rowden	M-315
	4	83	0	49
182	M-315	Rowden	M-315	Rowden
	7	84	0	49
156	M-315	Rowden	M-315	Rowden
	6	88	1	81
130	M-315	Rowden	M-315	Rowden
	4	85	2	97
104	M-315	Rowden	M-315	Rowden
	88	1	1	69
78	Rowden	M-315	M-315	Rowden
	73	0	0	69
52	Rowden	M-315	M-315	Rowden
	3	77	79	2
26	M-315	Rowden	Rowden	M-315
	8	76	2	72
0	M-315	Rowden	M-315	Rowden
EW	24		54	
				84
				114

Table 1. Percent wilted plants for entries and check in each replicate, least squares estimate of the average, *P*-value based on Dunnett's versus the resistant check M-315, and initial average number of plants per plot.

Entry	Cultivar/Line	Percent wilted plants				<i>P</i> -value	Avg. no. of plants	
		Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4			
O. Lloyd May, Delta and Pine Land Co., 381 William Gibbs Rd, Tifton, GA 31794								
101	LM-1	12	19	34	32	24	0.013	66
102	LM-2	15	15	57	40	35	0.005	78
103	LM-3	6	19	11	27	15	0.035	71
104	LM-4	27	23	25	6	20	0.020	85
105	LM-5	5	3	2	9	5	0.188	77
106	LM-6	19	4	15	57	24	0.012	75
107	LM-7	5	17	0	27	11	0.056	63
108	LM-8	21	14	4	17	14	0.038	74
	Rowden	69	72	81	90	77	<0.001	81
	M-315	0	2	1	2	1		62
Dawn Fraser, Monsanto Company, P.O. Box 1529, Hartsville, SC 29550								
201	DJ-1	7	12	1	1	5	0.140	75
202	DJ-2	11	15	10	17	13	0.023	57
203	DJ-3	33	16	16	9	19	0.006	66
204	DJ-4	5	4	9	17	8	0.061	76
205	DJ-5	26	4	7	6	11	0.033	73
206	DJ-6	6	1	2	17	7	0.087	68
207	DJ-7	8	12	16	15	13	0.022	63
208	DJ-8	14	4	4	7	7	0.087	72
	Rowden	66	92	74	73	76	<0.001	84
	M-315	0	0	0	8	2		68
Curtis Williams, Delta and Pine Land Co., 381 William Gibbs Rd, Tifton, GA 31794								
301	CW-1	13	7	1	0	4	0.325	76
302	CW-2	14	40	10	14	19	0.015	74
303	CW-3	28	12	33	29	26	0.005	74
304	CW-4	5	10	14	8	9	0.116	42
305	CW-5	11	42	16	30	25	0.006	57
306	CW-6	1	11	25	1	9	0.105	67
307	CW-7	20	2	19	6	12	0.057	59
308	CW-8	32	14	14	23	20	0.012	73
	Rowden	73	85	88	88	85	<0.001	73
	M-315	0	4	6	1	3		57

[†] The number listed in the average column is the estimate of the average wilt percentage based on a generalized linear mixed model with the binomial distribution for fixed effects. This estimate will generally be close, but may or may not be identical to the arithmetic average obtained by averaging the numbers in the columns representing the 4 reps.

Table 1. *continued*

Entry	Cultivar/Line	Percent wilted plants					P-value	Avg. no. of plants
		Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4	Avg.		
Dawn Fraser, Delta and Pine Land Co., P.O. Box 1529, Hartsville, SC 29550								
401	DF-1	10	8	13	0	8	0.122	67
402	DF-2	6	5	4	0	4	0.268	74
403	DF-3	48	25	8	18	26	0.013	64
404	DF-4	15	25	8	31	19	0.027	67
405	DF-5	9	13	9	2	8	0.115	70
406	DF-6	27	1	43	26	26	0.013	75
407	DF-7	8	4	0	2	4	0.241	66
408	DF-8	2	32	24	16	17	0.036	46
	Rowden	23	68	49	76	53	0.001	79
	M-315	0	0	0	8	2		61
Frank Bordelon, PhytoGen Seed Co., LLC, P.O. Box 27, Leland, MS 38756								
501	PHY-FB1	3	4	5	3	3	0.188	80
502	PHY-FB2	5	9	2	27	10	0.024	84
503	PHY-FB3	4	11	12	4	8	0.043	81
504	PHY-FB4	8	6	2	12	7	0.066	69
505	PHY-FB5	5	1	6	3	4	0.158	70
506	PHY-FB6	15	15	18	6	13	0.013	77
507	PHY-FB7	3	0	0	3	1	0.440	75
508	PHY-FB8	16	3	4	14	9	0.035	66
	Rowden	71	96	49	75	73	<0.001	88
	M-315	1	0	2	2	1		66
Daryl Bowman, University of North Carolina, 3709 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27607								
601	NC1	0	0	4	3	2	0.497	70
602	NC2	5	0	6	5	4	0.260	73
603	NC3	6	5	19	4	8	0.096	61
604	NC4	13	12	32	5	15	0.028	77
605	NC5	16	3	20	3	10	0.070	78
David Weaver, Auburn University, 201 Funchess Hall, Auburn, AL 36849-5415								
606	AU 1065	43	5	10	4	14	0.033	78
607	AU 1327	11	10	4	0	6	0.166	59
608	AU 3202	43	19	5	3	15	0.030	62
	Rowden	77	97	83	80	85	<0.001	86
	M-315	3	2	4	0	2		60

Table 1. *continued*

Entry	Cultivar/Line	Percent wilted plants					Avg. no. of plants	
		Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4	Avg.		
Mustafa McPherson, PhytoGen Seed Co., LLC, P.O. Box 27, Leland, MS 38756								
701	PHY- MM1	5	0	0	0	1	0.834	68
702	PHY- MM2	22	35	34	49	35	<0.001	88
703	PHY- MM3	0	1	1	0	1	0.886	75
704	PHY- MM4	0	0	3	11	4	0.571	74
705	PHY- MM5	4	1	3	2	3	0.698	69
706	PHY- MM6	20	7	13	10	13	0.045	78
707	PHY- MM7	19	37	37	59	38	<0.001	85
708	PHY- MM8	16	2	0	1	5	0.444	78
	Rowden	76	69	84	86	79	<0.001	96
	M-315	8	1	7	1	4		55
Fred Bourland, University of Arkansas, P.O. Box 48, Keiser, AR 72351								
801	FB-1	8	4	8	1	5	0.166	76
802	FB-2	5	1	0	14	5	0.173	71
803	FB-3	41	29	2	10	20	0.024	55
804	FB-4	9	14	21	24	16	0.034	69
805	FB-5	1	7	6	6	5	0.181	63
806	FB-6	21	32	33	23	28	0.012	62
807	FB-7	61	64	13	33	42	0.004	91
808	FB-8	15	40	3	8	16	0.036	70
	Rowden	72	88	49	69	67	0.001	67
	M-315	2	1	0	3	1		54
Brent Styles, Bayer Crop Science, 4205 Williamson Road, Wilson, NC 27893								
901	MS-2	0	9	3	3	3	0.539	58
902	MS-3	13	2	3	8	7	0.267	12
903	MS-4	4	8	15	11	9	0.136	24
904	MS-5	4	16	38	8	17	0.016	27
905	MS-6	6	21	8	0	8	0.115	81
906	FS-1	2	1	5	10	4	0.417	88
907	FS-2	2	0	0	6	2	0.771	91
908	FS-3	10	7	4	4	7	0.213	72
	Rowden	57	86	84	88	79	<0.001	91
	M-315	0	1	3	13	4		62

Table 1. *continued*

Entry	Cultivar/Line	Percent wilted plants					P-value	Avg. no. of plants
		Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4	Avg.		
Brent Styles, Bayer Crop Science, 4205 Williamson Road, Wilson, NC 27893								
1001	TP-4	6	4	2	5	4	0.143	67
1002	TP-5	13	1	1	3	4	0.148	70
1003	TP-6	25	21	21	20	22	0.004	85
1004	TP-7	13	0	1	0	3	0.191	81
1005	MB-3	13	32	1	13	15	0.011	44
1006	SC-3	0	14	0	13	7	0.055	68
1007	TL-6	50	48	32	49	45	<0.001	55
David Weaver, Auburn University, 201 Funchess Hall, Auburn, AL 36849-5415								
1008	Lonren 1	46	20	32	42	36	0.001	85
	Rowden	79	70	74	80	76	<0.001	60
	M-315	2	1	0	2	1		54

Table 2. Least squares mean root knot number per gram of root fresh weight, root fresh weigh in grams, and presence of *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *vasinfectum* in the tissue of five plants per plot. The data were log-normally distributed, hence 90% confidence intervals are given for each entry rather than an overall standard error.

Entry	Cultivar	<i>M. incognita</i> per gm root			Root fresh weight [g]		<i>F. oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>vasinfectum</i> Present
		Mean	95% CI	Rank	Mean	95% CI	
101	LM-1	402	(140, 1148)	12	1.3	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
102	LM-2	462	(161, 1320)	15	4.4	(2.1, 8.1)	YES
103	LM-3	1303	(456, 3728)	63	2.9	(1.1, 6.1)	YES
104	LM-4	588	(206, 1683)	23	2.5	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
105	LM-5	1501	(525, 4294)	67	3.3	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
106	LM-6	593	(207, 1696)	25	2.8	(1.1, 6.1)	YES
107	LM-7	1753	(613, 5015)	74	1.1	(1.1, 2.1)	YES
108	LM-8	1174	(411, 3359)	57	3.0	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
109	Rowden	783	(274, 2241)	32	2.4	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
110	M-315	224	(78, 641)	3	1.4	(1.1, 3.1)	NO
201	DJ-1	354	(124, 1012)	9	3.3	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
202	DJ-2	211	(74, 605)	2	1.6	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
203	DJ-3	1020	(357, 2917)	48	2.2	(1.1, 4.1)	YES
204	DJ-4	278	(97, 795)	6	4.9	(2.1, 9.1)	NO
205	DJ-5	642	(224, 1836)	26	4.4	(2.1, 9.1)	YES
206	DJ-6	654	(229, 1870)	29	2.6	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
207	DJ-7	589	(206, 1685)	24	2.7	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
208	DJ-8	508	(178, 1454)	18	3.2	(2.1, 6.1)	NO
301	CW-1	2837	(992, 8115)	80	2.6	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
302	CW-2	423	(148, 1210)	13	2.6	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
303	CW-3	899	(314, 2571)	41	1.7	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
304	CW-4	449	(157, 1284)	14	4.7	(2.1, 9.1)	YES
305	CW-5	342	(119, 977)	8	3.3	(2.1, 6.1)	NO
306	CW-6	819	(286, 2344)	35	2.5	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
307	CW-7	804	(281, 2299)	33	2.9	(1.1, 6.1)	YES
308	CW-8	1437	(502, 4110)	65	2.7	(1.1, 5.1)	NO
401	DF-1	1189	(416, 3401)	59	1.6	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
402	DF-2	357	(125, 1020)	11	1.7	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
403	DF-3	503	(176, 1439)	17	2.2	(1.1, 4.1)	YES
404	DF-4	1028	(359, 2939)	50	1.6	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
405	DF-5	204	(71, 583)	1	2.6	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
406	DF-6	468	(164, 1338)	16	3.9	(2.1, 8.1)	YES
407	DF-7	1772	(620, 5069)	75	2.6	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
408	DF-8	237	(83, 678)	5	3.6	(2.1, 7.1)	YES

Table 2. *continued*

Entry	Cultivar	<i>M. incognita</i> per gm root			Root fresh weight [g]		<i>F. oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>vasinfectum</i> Present
		Mean	95% CI	Rank	Mean	95% CI	
501	PHY-FB1	1227	(429, 3510)	60	2.7	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
502	PHY-FB2	2370	(829, 6779)	77	2.1	(1.1, 4.1)	YES
503	PHY-FB3	1452	(508, 4152)	66	4.2	(2.1, 8.1)	YES
504	PHY-FB4	1010	(353, 2889)	47	4.6	(2.1, 9.1)	YES
505	PHY-FB5	1178	(412, 3368)	58	3.8	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
506	PHY-FB6	232	(81, 663)	4	2.3	(1.1, 4.1)	YES
507	PHY-FB7	2747	(961, 7858)	78	2.4	(1.1, 5.1)	NO
508	PHY-FB8	1506	(527, 4308)	68	3.9	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
601	NC1	1041	(364, 2977)	52	1.9	(1.1, 4.1)	NO
602	NC2	989	(346, 2829)	46	1.7	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
603	NC3	518	(181, 1481)	19	2.4	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
604	NC4	313	(109, 894)	7	1.4	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
605	NC5	578	(202, 1652)	21	2.5	(1.1, 5.1)	NO
606	AU 1065	1635	(572, 4678)	71	3.1	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
607	AU 1327	749	(262, 2141)	31	1.4	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
608	AU 3202	928	(325, 2655)	44	2.0	(1.1, 4.1)	YES
701	PHY-MM1	7693	(2690, 22003)	82	1.7	(1.1, 3.1)	NO
702	PHY-MM2	2818	(985, 8060)	79	2.7	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
703	PHY-MM3	356	(125, 1019)	10	1.3	(1.1, 2.1)	YES
704	PHY-MM4	876	(306, 2507)	40	1.6	(1.1, 3.1)	NO
705	PHY-MM5	522	(182, 1492)	20	2.0	(1.1, 4.1)	YES
706	PHY-MM6	1244	(435, 3559)	61	1.7	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
707	PHY-MM7	1155	(404, 3303)	54	1.5	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
708	PHY-MM8	819	(286, 2342)	34	3.0	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
801	FB-1	1632	(571, 4668)	70	3.4	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
802	FB-2	1028	(360, 2941)	51	3.7	(2.1, 7.1)	NO
803	FB-3	913	(319, 2612)	43	3.7	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
804	FB-4	1169	(409, 3343)	56	2.5	(1.1, 5.1)	YES
805	FB-5	3192	(1116, 9130)	81	3.1	(2.1, 6.1)	NO
806	FB-6	911	(318, 2605)	42	3.3	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
807	FB-7	643	(225, 1840)	27	1.4	(1.1, 3.1)	YES
808	FB-8	1102	(385, 3152)	53	2.1	(1.1, 4.1)	YES

Table 2. *continued*

Entry	Cultivar	<i>M. incognita</i> per gm root			Root fresh weight [g]		<i>F. oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>vasinfectum</i> Present
		Mean	95% CI	Rank	Mean	95% CI	
901	MS-2	945	(331, 2704)	45	3.6	(2.1, 7.1)	NO
902	MS-3	826	(289, 2363)	37	5.9	(3.1, 11.1)	NO
903	MS-4	824	(288, 2356)	36	3.8	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
904	MS-5	1611	(563, 4607)	69	2.9	(1.1, 6.1)	NO
905	MS-6	845	(295, 2416)	39	2.9	(1.1, 6.1)	YES
906	FS-1	648	(196, 2148)	28	3.4	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
907	FS-2	1658	(580, 4741)	72	3.0	(2.1, 6.1)	NO
908	FS-3	727	(254, 2081)	30	4.0	(2.1, 8.1)	NO
1001	TP-4	1682	(588, 4810)	73	3.3	(2.1, 6.1)	NO
1002	TP-5	845	(295, 2415)	38	2.1	(1.1, 4.1)	NO
1003	TP-6	1027	(359, 2938)	49	3.3	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
1004	TP-7	1376	(481, 3935)	64	3.1	(2.1, 6.1)	YES
1005	MB-3	1155	(404, 3304)	55	5.2	(3.1, 10.1)	YES
1006	SC-3	1245	(435, 3562)	62	5.6	(3.1, 11.1)	NO
1007	TL-6	1874	(655, 5361)	76	3.8	(2.1, 7.1)	YES
1008	Lonren 1	585	(204, 1672)	22	4.3	(2.1, 8.1)	YES