

Good Practices and Decisions After Failed Cotton Can Benefit Producers and Boll Weevil Eradication Efforts

Cotton producers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are facing many challenges in the 2020 growing season. As drought conditions continue, many producers are considering alternative crops to plant behind failed cotton. Before planting another crop, producers may want to consider ways to avoid some of the challenges these types of fields can create for farmers and the boll weevil eradication program.

Failed cotton fields contain cottonseed that may not have germinated. Producers can avoid potential problems by waiting until moisture is received and the cotton comes up...then it can be destroyed prior to planting a second crop. Cotton growing in other crops is considered “non-commercial cotton” and subject to the state’s non-commercial cotton regulations. Program personnel want to work with farmers to help them stay in compliance with these regulations.

The boll weevil eradication program is off to a great start in 2020. Finding and destroying volunteer cotton plants eliminates sources for weevil feeding and reproduction. The Foundation will continue to trap these fields throughout the season. If cotton is present in alternate crops and weevils are present, these fields will have to be treated.

Please take the necessary steps to eliminate failed cotton from fields prior to planting another crop. In addition, please be sure to closely inspect your second crop for any possible cotton escapes and remove them promptly. Doing so will not only save money but will allow for the Foundation to move forward in eliminating this devastating pest from your area. If you have any questions or would like to report cotton growing in other crops, please contact the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation office in your area...or you can call the Foundation’s toll-free number 1-800-687-1212.