

HOST-PLANT RELATIONS AND CULTIVAR-SPECIFIC RESPONSE OF COTTON TO LYGUS INJURY

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The western tarnished plant bug and other lygus species are key pests of cotton in western arid cotton production regions. In addition, the lygus complex has become increasingly important in other US cotton production regions. Because current recommended treatment levels are nominal, the effectiveness of lygus management strategies could be improved with detailed knowledge of the cultivar- and plant stage-specific impacts of lygus. This information would provide the capability to construct improved crop phenology- or yield potential-specific management rules, and the procedures developed should improve the efficiency of efforts to screen cotton germplasm for resistance or tolerance to lygus infestation.