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NEWS RELEASE

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Cotton Plant Mapping Software

New software for cotton plant mapping is available from University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). An effective management tool for cotton production is the plant mapping information that was developed by UCCE personnel more than a dozen years ago. The paper and pencil recording method was exchanged for software that utilized Lotus 123 spreadsheet on a HP Palmtop PC. That hardware and software is no longer supported. Software has been developed to run the program on Palm OS and Windows CE, operating systems that run on Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs).

The input screens are graphically based to utilize the touch screen technology on today's state-of-the-art hand held devices and allows for additional data input of field notes and observations including beneficial and harmful insect counts. The output includes numerical calculations, growth regulator recommendations, critical boll retention data and a graphical representation of the height-to-node ratio, growth rate and nodes above white flower. These data points are plotted in comparison to standard curves developed from many high yielding cotton fields.

"Growth will vary from the standard curve on a field to field basis, with different varieties, pest pressures or other growing conditions," said Bob Hutmacher, Extension Cotton Specialist. "That is why it is important to use the data from several sampling dates throughout the season and follow the trend compared to the standard curve."

Output from repeated measurements in the same field is included in the report and graphs. This allows the use of data from several sampling dates throughout the season to follow growth trends compared to the standard curve. The most important improvement in this output version is the programming to display multiple dates in a graphic format. This helps improve interpretation of the data.

To obtain a copy of the program, contact Brian Marsh at 661-868-6210 or bhmarsh@ucdavis.edu. ■