

Sulfur Builds Leaf Tissue and Cotton Yields

Sulfur (S) is vital for producing leaf area, which means it's important to have a portion of the crop's S available early in the season, notes Dr. W. Hunter Frame, field crops agronomist at Virginia Tech's Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Cotton researchers from Virginia, Georgia and Alabama share their recommendations, including:

- Apply 50 percent of the recommended S at planting and the other 50 percent at sidedress, rather than the 25/75-percent ratio of at-plant versus sidedress application recommended for N in cotton.
- S sources that are in the sulfate form are recommended to ensure that applied S is immediately available to the crop.
- Today, leaf S is a more accurate way to measure S status than petiole testing as no petiole S sufficiency ranges currently exist. However, a leaf N/leaf S ratio of 8:1 is a good barometer for gauging N and S management practices.
- In a Virginia Tech 2018 study at a highly S-deficient site, 10 pounds of applied S boosted lint yields by 420 pounds, and an additional 10 pounds of S added another 110 pounds to the harvest. Similarly, a recent University of Georgia study saw two-bale cotton yields increase by an additional bale in response to sulfur fertilization.

Get the [full story here](#).

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