

RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF COTTON VARIETIES IN THE SOUTH DELTA OF MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 2002 GROWING SEASON

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Cotton varieties containing the Bollgard™ technology have been on the increase since its introduction in 1996. There has been a further need in the cotton industry to reduce input costs, increase yield, fiber quality, provide an efficient means of pest control and generate net dollar returns. However, little information exists evaluating the multi-dimensions from technologies that include the impacts from the individual cotton variety. The objectives were to compare performance and net dollar returns of technology containing cotton products (BG/RR™ and Roundup Ready™ varieties) to conventional cotton varieties. The objective was to further explore the performance of the new Delta and Pine Land 555 BR™. Delta and Pine Land 555 BR™ provided one of the highest yields across all locations during 2002 while offering the greatest net returns. This was due partially to the high yield and stable fiber properties. When comparing the performance of the technology containing products to conventional products, it was observed in 2002 the BG/RR™ products provided a higher net return followed by the conventional and Roundup Ready™ products at \$465.00, \$425.00 and \$366.00 per acre. Further fiber property evidence indicates that fiber is driven by the individual variety and not necessarily by technology.
