

The following recommendations should be strongly considered for the 2001 harvest season for open cotton bolls exposed to excessive moisture.

1. Cotton should only be harvested after **at least 7 to 10 additional days** of sun exposure than normally used to allow the germinated cottonseed to die and dry out some as well as allow the other cottonseed to dry. These days should have low to moderate relative humidity, moderate to high heat, and high sunlight. In most instances, if at least 50% of the cottonseed are firm, the cotton can be ginned. The sunshine will possibly move the color of the cotton from the current Light Spot or Spotted to White.
2. If harvested too quickly, seed cotton moisture will be excessive (over 12%) and the seed cotton cannot be stored either in trailers or modules for more than 24 hours. The germinated cottonseed will likely remain at a higher moisture than normal cottonseed. **Again, this high-moisture cotton cannot be stored more than 24 hours either in modules or trailers if the moisture is excessive.** Module temperatures must be monitored in at least 6 locations immediately after module formation and every 12 hours afterward for at least 6 days. If temperatures rise more than 20 degrees or reach 120 degrees, gin immediately.
3. At the gin, substantial drying will be required to ensure that the gin stand remains operational. Substantial seed coats will be in the lint after the gin stand due to the germinated cottonseed, and two stages of lint cleaning will likely be required. If air-type lint cleaners are used, care must be exercised to ensure that substantial quantities of fiber which is attached to the seed coat is not removed; it may be necessary to close the opening in the air jet cleaner to reduce or prevent excessive fiber loss.
4. Seed cotton harvested early (September 4, 2001) produced about 85% as much cottonseed as expected because of the germinated cottonseed component, and those cottonseed graded 75 instead of the usual 100. Thus, cottonseed value may be about 65% of normal. However, if the recommendations herein are followed, cottonseed value will be much higher. In addition, cotton that was not opened during the rain will be near normal.
5. Fiber quality will be near normal except for the poor color caused by the weather, and possible length degradation caused by extra drying needed at the gin. Cotton ginned on September 5 graded color 42 but all other quality factors (length 36, uniformity 82, micronaire 4.6, strength 29, leaf 3, Rd 69.3, Plus B 9.0) were normal. For this cotton, additional drying and cleaning at the **gin would not improve** the color to 41.
6. The potential for high-moisture lint after ginning necessitates careful use of moisture restoration systems at the gin.
7. Relatively impermeable polyethylene bagging for bale covers may be a potential problem since excess moisture may be in the cotton.

8. The first grid bar on the first lint cleaner will encounter abnormally high wear during the season. It likely will require cleaning on a regular basis and **may need to be replaced during the season.** The increased wear will greatly increase the fiber loss.