News Release

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EPA Approves Natural Refuge for Bollgard® II Cotton. Monsanto announced June 4, 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency approved a natural refuge option for Bollgard® II cotton planted from Texas east, excluding some Texas counties. Now cotton producers in the eligible regions can take advantage of non-cotton crops and other plants as a refuge for certain pests and will not be required to plant a non-Bt Cotton refuge for Bollgard® II cotton. This does not apply to Bollgard® cotton. Refuge requirements continue for Bollgard® varieties.

The following Texas counties are not eligible for the natural refuge option for Bollgard® II cotton: Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Val Verde, Ward, and Winkler.

Cotton producers who plant Bollgard cotton must continue to plant a structured refuge of five percent unsprayed or 20 percent sprayed non-Bt cotton as required by IRM rules and specified in their technology use agreements.

For further information contact the Nolan County Extension office at (325) 236-9011.

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