



Georgia Department of Agriculture

Plant Industry, 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Room 243•
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

Tommy Irvin
Commissioner

Overview of Boll Weevil Eradication Program

Eradication efforts continue to push the boll weevil westward and, hopefully, out of the United States. The Plant Protection Division enforces boll weevil regulations and collects assessments from cotton farmers for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. These assessments are used to place and monitor boll weevil pheromone traps around cotton fields and to control any re-infestations. Because the boll weevil is still a threat to Georgia's cotton production, no one may grow ornamental cotton, even as a novelty, without a permit. The cotton boll weevil was eradicated from Georgia in the early 1990s. Since then, cotton production has increased from 200,000 acres to nearly 1.5 million acres annually.



How to request a Permit to grow ornamental/display cotton:



1. Write a letter to Mike Evans on official letterhead of your society or organization (if applicable) with the following information:
 - a. State your purpose or intent for growing cotton
 - b. State the location where you intend to grow cotton
 - c. The anticipated size of your growing area (we may place size limitations)
 - d. Contact person and phone number
 - e. Directions to attain access to your property during normal business hours
2. We will process your request and present you with a permit to grow cotton; do not plant cotton on your premises until you receive this permit.
3. No fee will be involved for private/non-profit organizations
4. We will have someone set up boll weevil pheromone traps around your cotton garden and check them for any signs of weevils periodically; please do not disturb or tamper with these pheromone traps.
5. We reserve the right to supervise/observe the destruction of your cotton at the end of the growing season or at any time we deem necessary to preserve the integrity of the Boll Weevil Eradication program in Georgia and the Southeast (O.C.G.A. § 2-12-100).
6. Address to write letter to:

Mike Evans, Director
Georgia Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection Division – Room 243
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-4201
Phone: 404-651-9486
Fax: 404-656-3644

