



# GROWING SMARTER

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## EPA Restricts Bollgard Cotton Seeds for Arizona Growers

### New Cotton Seeds Make Great Replacements in 2010

The EPA has restricted the planting of Bollgard® cotton in 2010 and requires discontinuation of all Bollgard varieties in the U.S. In Arizona, Bollgard seed will not be sold for planting in 2010 because pink bollworm eradication programs are underway.

Arizona cotton growers that were planting a Bollgard variety will need to select a Bollgard II® variety for their 2010 planting. This transition is necessary to maintain the long-term effectiveness of biotech traits in cotton that control key insect pests by moving away from a single mode of action to dual modes of action on Bt cotton products.

"The benefits of seeds with dual modes of action are tremendous," says Tyke Bennett, Seed Products Manager, Fertizona. "And, there are great new varieties available to replace the discontinued Bollgard varieties that were commonly planted in Arizona."

*continued on page 2*





## Agriculture Issues Abundant in 2010

Many issues that concern agriculture in the Southwest and across the U.S. have already arisen in the first few months of 2010. The proposed cap-and-trade regulations and the government health care provisions will greatly affect the agriculture industry. If both measures go through in their current forms, the consequences will linger for many generations to come.

At Fertilzona, we recommend that all growers contact your local U.S. Representative to voice your opinions on these two important issues.

No matter what the outcome, I want you to know that Fertilzona and Compton Ag Services will continue to be a trusted partner to you. As always, we are here to assist you and help you in any way possible. We're in this together and we want your operation to be successful for many years to come.

– Jim Compton

President, Fertilzona  
and Compton Ag Services

*cover story continued*

### Replacement Seed Varieties

According to Tyke, the Safford Valley and Thatcher, Ariz., will be heavily impacted by the discontinuation of Bollgard varieties. Deltapine® Cotton Seed's DP 455 BR variety was the main cotton seed planted in the Safford Valley and Thatcher, but it cannot be planted in 2010.

"DP 0935 B2RF is expected to be the primary replacement for DP 455," adds Tyke.

Launched with Deltapine's Class of '09 varieties, DP 0935 has been a standout for growers that usually harvest in October and want a more mid-maturing variety. It has shown yield stability across a range of growing conditions and management techniques. It also has a nectarless trait for plant bug suppression.

"DP 0935 is a forgiving cotton with excellent storm tolerance," says Paul Sawyer, Territory Sales Manager, Monsanto and Deltapine. "It has been a top performer in crop trials in Safford and growers are always happy when they see the gin reports."

DP 164 B2RF also is a good option to replace DP 455 for growers in the Safford Valley. This variety has excellent heat tolerance and a long track record of high yields and good quality. Not only is it a good replacement seed for DP 455, it's also a great benefit for growers in the low desert areas that carry the crop full season.

"DP 164 is one of the best-selling varieties in the state," adds Paul. "Deltapine has varieties to fit every growing situation in Arizona. Our Class of '09 and new Class of '10 seed varieties have the potential to increase yields and crop quality for Arizona cotton producers."

**Contact your local Fertilzona or Compton Ag Services representative to learn more.**

### Deltapine Class of '10 Varieties

- DP 1028 B2RF
- DP 1032 B2RF
- DP 1034 B2RF
- DP 1044 B2RF
- DP 1050 B2RF

### Deltapine Class of '09 Varieties

- DP 0912 B2RF
- DP 0920 B2RF
- DP 0924 B2RF
- DP 0935 B2RF
- DP 0949 B2RF







# Getting Plants Necessary Nutrition

**Fertigation Helps Nutrients Reach Plants Quickly, Efficiently**

Finding the correct amount of fertilizer for optimum plant health is a constant balancing act. Growers are always trying to avoid using too much or too little fertilizer when feeding crops. Fertigation is one way growers can help water and nutrients reach crops quickly, effectively, in the correct amounts and at the same time.

Fertigation is the process of adding a liquid fertilizer to irrigation water. Each time growers operate their irrigation systems, fertilizer is released into the water, delivering crops the nutrients and water they need simultaneously.

“With fertigation, overfeeding, underfeeding and waste are eliminated,” says Doyle Stewart, Field Representative, Fertizona-Buckeye. “Dry fertilizer applications rely on subsequent watering to dissolve fertilizer granules. But with fertigation, liquid fertilizer is mixed with irrigation water and fertilization is continuous, not intermittent, so crops get all the nutrients they need to stay healthy.”

## Selecting a Fertigation System

It's important that growers select the best fertigation system for their needs. A few of the most common systems include:

**Sub-surface drip:** Sub-surface drip systems are placed below ground and drip slowly to deliver water and fertilizer directly to the root zone of

plants. They are extremely accurate and allow growers to apply the proper amount of fertilizer for optimal plant health. Sub-surface drip also lets growers combine soil sample and leaf tissue analysis results so a custom SmartBlend™ fertilizer can be created for their operation.

**Overhead or center pivot:** This is a foliar fertigation system in which segments of pipe are joined together and mounted on towers with sprinklers positioned along its length. The system moves in a circular or linear pattern to distribute water and fertilizer. Center pivot is accurate and quickly gets plants the nutrients they need.

**Micro-mister:** This low-pressure, low-volume system delivers water and fertilizer directly to the soil surface near the root zone of plants. It conserves water because of its high-application efficiency and distribution uniformity.

## Furst™ Liquid and Fertigation

An example of a nutrient product that has had success in fertigation systems is Fertizona's Furst Liquid, a patented combination of amino acids that activates several beneficial biological and environmental responses in plants.

“Furst Liquid is a great high-performance plant nutrition product to use with fertigation,” adds Doyle.

Many other products can be applied via fertigation to enhance nutritional programs. However, care should be used when selecting products to be run through fertigation systems. Some products, such as those containing calcium, can be antagonistic to previously used products and can result in adverse effects. Fertizona's trained and knowledgeable staff can help growers research and identify compatibility issues and create a proper nutritional program.

***For more information on fertigation options, please contact your local Fertizona or Compton Ag Services representative.***

## Benefits of fertigation include:

- Save time.
- Easy handling of fertilizers.
- More efficient use of fertilizers.
- Less chance of leaching or loss of nutrients.
- Fertilizer is placed near the root zone where plants need it most.



## Keeping Crops Weed-free

### TrIAP™ Pre-emergent Herbicide Controls Annual Grasses, Broadleaf Weeds

Most growers run into problems with weeds at one point or another. Managing and controlling weeds is critical to the success of any operation and requires a well thought-out plan and a product that will get the job done.

TrIAP, with the active ingredient trifluralin, is a selective, pre-emergent herbicide used to control many annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in a large variety of crops. And, many growers have turned to TrIAP to help control weeds in their operations.

#### Features and Benefits

TrIAP, available in liquid and granular formulations, is a versatile herbicide that is applied, typically by airplane or tractor, in early spring and offers six to eight weeks of effective weed control. In addition, TrIAP is safe to plants and users, shows no resistance to weeds and does not contaminate soil or water.

“TrIAP is a great product that is fairly simple to apply,” says Doug Canan, Manager, Fertizona-Roll. “If applied correctly, growers can prevent or eliminate weed problems in their crops.”

TrIAP, with the active ingredient trifluralin, is a selective, pre-emergent herbicide used to control many annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in a large variety of crops.

#### One Application, Two Jobs

Growers are constantly searching for ways to save time, money and labor. Impregnating dry fertilizers with herbicides, like TrIAP 4F, is a great way to do this—it saves an application trip across the field.

“At Fertizona, we’re always looking for ways to help our customers’ bottom lines. We’ve been impregnating fertilizers with TrIAP 4F so growers can do two jobs at one time,” says Doug. “More and more growers are looking for ways to cut back; this is just one simple way to do that.”

Liquid TrIAP 4F and granular TrIAP 10G are available at all Fertizona locations through Fertizona’s partnership with Independent Agribusiness Professionals.

***For more information, please contact your local Fertizona or Compton Ag Services representative.***







## All in the Family

### Family-owned Orchard Invites Public to Pick Fruit

Apple Annie's Orchard, located in Willcox, Ariz., is a family-run farming operation that specializes in tree-ripened apples, peaches and pears. Opened daily during harvest, which typically runs from July through October, Apple Annie's Orchard allows visitors to pick their own fruit or purchase fresh fruit from its farm stand.

In 1986, John and Annie Holcomb planted 6,000 apple trees and opened Apple Annie's Orchard out of their carport—planning to grow apples

commercially. When the trees began producing fruit, John and Annie decided to sell apples to the public on a you-pick basis. Later, Apple Annie's planted peach and pear trees and grafted some of the original apple trees to new varieties.

“Our goal was to have fruit available for our customers to pick throughout our entire harvest season,” explains John Holcomb, Owner, Apple Annie's Orchards. “Today, in addition to our pick-your-own fruit, we've added many activities for our customers to enjoy including hay rides, a corn maze, weekend festivals and Apple Annie's Produce and Pumpkins, which produces melons, pumpkins, sweet corn and other vegetables.”

#### Growing Customer Base

Today, Apple Annie's has nearly 100,000 visitors each

year during its four-month harvest season. The orchard is also visited by approximately 9,000 children each season on field trips. The field trips are designed to teach children about agriculture and farming.

#### Facing Frost

Even in Arizona, where the weather is typically warm, frost becomes a problem for Apple Annie's in the spring.

“We have frost issues with our apples, peaches and pears,” explains John. “We use wind machines to fight frost and keep our crops healthy.”

#### A Trusted Partner

Since its opening in 1986, Apple Annie's has been working with Fertizona. Fertizona supplies them with fertilizers, herbicides and, when needed, pesticides.

“We have a great relationship with Fertizona,” says John. “We've worked with them for many years and are extremely happy with the level of service we receive from them.”

*For more information on Apple Annie's Orchard, please visit [www.appleannies.com](http://www.appleannies.com) or contact your local Fertizona representative.*

## Apple Annie's Orchard at a glance:

#### Owners:

John and Annie Holcomb

#### Location:

Willcox, Ariz.

#### Opened:

1986

#### Crops farmed:

Apples, peaches, pears, pumpkins, melons, sweet corn and other vegetables.

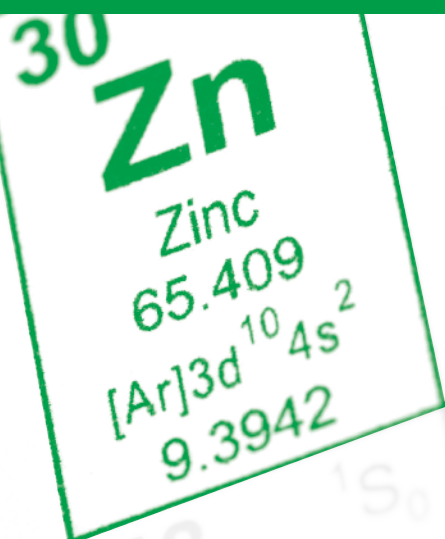
#### Began working with Fertizona:

1986



The Holcomb family.





## Think Zinc

### Growers Get Back to Basics with Zinc Fertilizers

Zinc is essential for the normal healthy growth of plants. When zinc is deficient, the health and productivity of the plants will suffer, resulting in lower yields and poorer quality crops.

On a global scale, zinc deficiency is the most widespread of all micronutrient deficiencies. The major staple crops are all affected by zinc deficiency as are many different fruits, vegetables and other types of crops including cotton and flax.

“Zinc is particularly important in young plants,” says Dennis Osborn, Crop Protection Sales Manager, Fertizona. “It’s a critical component of any fertilizer program, but one that many growers have cut to save input costs. It’s important that growers get back to basics—crops need zinc.”

### Benefits of Zinc

Zinc is required in small but critical amounts to allow several key plant physiological pathways to function normally. These pathways have important roles in: photosynthesis and sugar formation, protein synthesis, fertility and seed production, growth regulation and defense against disease.

Zinc deficiency manifests in several ways including: chlorosis of leaves, stunting, resetting, dwarf and

malformed leaves. All cases of zinc deficiency result in reduced yields and lower quality crops, which is of major economic importance for growers.

“Keeping plants healthy and ensuring proper amounts of zinc from the onset typically results in increased yields,” says Tom Montoya, Manager, Fertizona-Santan.

### Correcting Zinc Deficiency

Zinc deficiency can be diagnosed or predicted through soil tests and/or tissue analysis. When a deficiency exists, zinc fertilizer will need to be applied to correct the problem.

Zinc fertilizers stimulate cell formation, increasing leaf size and encouraging good root development and plant growth. With higher zinc levels in the plant, there is greater uptake of fertilizer and soil nutrients for higher yields and crop quality.

**“It’s important that growers get back to basics—crops need zinc.”**

Dennis Osborn

In Arizona, zinc sulfate and zinc nitrate are commonly used zinc fertilizer compounds. Zinc fertilizers can be applied directly to the soil or to the foliage of growing crops. They can be broadcast onto the soil, banded, foliar sprayed or added into irrigation water. Zinc is typically applied with nitrogen fertilizers.

“Foliar sprays should be applied early in the growing season when new shoots and young leaves are actively growing,” adds Dennis. “Correctly timing zinc applications is vital.”

***Fertizona offers a variety of zinc fertilizers. To find the best zinc fertilizers for your crops, please contact your local Fertizona or Compton Ag Services representative.***

### Zinc Products Available at Fertizona

- Zicron™-S
- Ferti-Zinc 10%
- Zinc Nitrate Solution
- Ferti-Neutral Zinc 52
- Metalosate® Zinc
- Metalosate® Zinc Plus™
- Zinc Sulfate 36%





“I have a background in landscape supply that enables me to bring quite a bit of knowledge to Fertizona—especially when it comes to the turf and ornamental portion of my job.”

Craig Allen

## Keeping Crops and Turf Healthy

### Craig Allen Works with Growers and Turf Managers

As the manager of Fertizona-Fennemore, Craig Allen is responsible for purchasing, inventory, supervising a team of 15 professionals and overseeing formulating and packaging for many Fertizona-branded products including Furst™ Liquid and the “Ferti” line of micronutrients. He is also in charge of turf and ornamental sales for Fertizona within the Southwest.

### Growing Up in the Industry

Born in Ontario, Ore., Craig moved to Phoenix in 1957. He grew up on Goodyear Farms in Litchfield Park and became involved with agriculture at a young age. Craig went on to attend Arizona State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in agriculture business in 1970. After college, Craig owned and operated a landscape supply business in Peoria. In 1982, he returned to agriculture and in 1986 he joined the Fertizona team. He has been working at Fertizona-Fennemore ever since.

“Fertizona gave me the opportunity to grow the business in agriculture and turf,” says Craig. “I have a background in landscape supply that enables me to bring quite a bit of knowledge to Fertizona—especially when it comes to the turf and ornamental portion of my job.”

### Working With a Versatile Customer Base

Fertizona-Fennemore’s customers grow a wide range of crops including vegetables, alfalfa, grains, cotton and forage crops. And, the turf and ornamental division works with golf courses, cities and landscape supply companies. Both share some common challenges.

“Weeds are the biggest problem we see in this area,” explains Craig. “It’s important that growers and turf managers have a weed management program. If you don’t have a plan, you’ll always be behind.”

To help control weeds, Craig and his team work with customers to develop the best weed management program for each operation. They also create custom dry and liquid fertilizer SmartBlends™ to ensure that each customer gets a product specifically developed for their operation.

Craig resides in Buckeye with his wife, Vicki. In his free time, he enjoys golfing and spending time with his eight children and 13 grandchildren.

## Furst Liquid Cotton Trial Data

### Crops Show Increased Quality, Yield with Addition of Furst

Trials of Furst Liquid, a proprietary nutritional technology for plants, increased yields on cotton crops in Arizona and California in 2009.

Cotton crops treated with Furst Liquid typically showed an increase in quality and yield and had a significantly higher Net Loan Price than cotton crops that weren’t treated with Furst Liquid.

Jack Seiler Farms, located in Blythe, Calif., reported a one bale per acre increase over its grower standard with the addition of two 8-ounce applications of Furst Liquid with his mepiquat chloride sprays.

“This is great news for growers,” says Tyrell Currie, Marketing Coordinator, Fertizona. “This is one more great test result where Furst Liquid has increased cotton quality and yield simply by adding it to their existing fertilizer programs.”

**See the results “Furst-hand” by contacting your local Fertizona or Compton Ag Services representative.**



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## LOCATIONS

Contact Your Local Office For All Your Needs.

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