

ATTENTION CROP PRODUCERS

★ NEW TEXAS LAW ★

NONCOMMERCIAL  
COTTON MUST BE  
DESTROYED



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE



COMMISSIONER  
TODD STAPLES

## Texas Law

- Recently amended in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature, the Texas agriculture code requires a landowner or operator to destroy noncommercial (volunteer) cotton.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture is charged with enforcing noncommercial cotton regulations.
- Operators of land found with noncommercial cotton may be subject to fees and/or fines.

## Why?

- Boll weevils in noncommercial cotton plants escape detection and treatment. This increases the expense of boll weevil eradication.
- A single noncommercial cotton plant can produce boll weevils that will hinder eradication efforts for an entire county.
- Years of eradication efforts have almost eliminated the threat of boll weevils in large areas of Texas.
- Eradication of the boll weevil is essential to keeping the Texas Cotton industry competitive.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**1-800-TELL-TDA**

OR

**WWW.TEXASAGRICULTURE.GOV**

## What is Noncommercial Cotton?

- Volunteer and regrowth cotton in fallow fields or fields of corn, wheat, soybeans, etc.
- Cotton growing *anywhere* other than in a commercial cotton field.

*Texas leads the nation in cotton production, and we want to keep it that way. Our state has invested millions of dollars in successful boll weevil eradication efforts, and we must eliminate noncommercial cotton as it can become a major breeding ground for this harmful pest.*

*-Commissioner Todd Staples*

## How Can I Help?

- Monitor for volunteer and regrowth cotton in fields formerly used for cotton production and other areas noncommercial cotton may occur.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to destroy noncommercial cotton.
- Visit our Web site for herbicides labeled to destroy cotton found in other crops.
- Call TDA if you see noncommercial cotton plants.