Come on, let’s plant cotton!!

(Editor’s note: The following information was supplied by County Agent J. Aubrey Mire to assist those Ville Platte residents who may wish to enter the cotton growing contest sponsored by the Cotton Festival Association and the Ville Platte Gazette. Free cotton seeds are available at the Gazette office for anyone who wishes to enter the residential, commercial and governmental phases of the contest.)

Cotton is no longer a major agronomic crop in Evangeline Parish, however, we do have a keen and revitalized interest by many local Ville Platte area citizens. That interest is centered around growing cotton as horticultural plants in the landscape of their yards and businesses in preparation for the annual Cotton Festival next October.

In retrospect, Evangeline Parish in 1935 had 34,667 acres of cotton versus 293 acres in 1985. So quietly did the decline of cotton come that it almost escaped notice.

For the citizens who are interested in making cotton part of the landscape in 1986, the proper planting time is April 15 to May 15. Cotton should be planted by the hill or by the row. There should be four or five seeds to the hill, then it should be thinned down to two plants per hill. Spacing of each individual hill should be 12 or 15 inches apart.

For those who want to plant in rows, there should be one seed every three or four inches, then it should be thinned down to 1 or 2 plants per foot. However, plants express themselves better if there is one plant per foot.

Seeds should be planted from one to one and a half inches in depth.

Keep in mind that this landscape cotton is not being planted for economic reasons, but for esthetic value and it should be fertilized with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium about the same manner you would care for tomato or okra plants in the garden.

You will also need to control weeds throughout the growing season; this can best be done with a hoe.

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