BREEDING FOR FIBER LENGTH REGULARITY IN COTTON

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Quality of cotton is receiving the attention of all who are closely associated with the cotton industry. From the viewpoint of the breeder, however, quality has in the past had a very vague meaning. In the cotton market it has meant only grade and staple, or length. Grade, is dependent upon care in harvesting and ginning of the crop and upon weather conditions. Staple depends somewhat upon environmental conditions (4) during the growth of the crop, but it depends mostly upon the inherent length of the variety being grown. It is only very recently (1) that length of lint has been recognized as definitely related to spinning value.

COTTON BREEDERS AND QUALITY

The relation of length to spinning value leads to a definite meaning of quality from the breeder’s viewpoint. Turner and Uenkataraman (5) have shown that characters such as ribbon-width, strength, convolutions, or rigidity are not of value in predicting the spinning value of a cotton. They found that fiber length and fiber weight per inch are related to spinning value. The long fibers have been recognized

1 Contribution from the Department of Agronomy, New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, N. M. Scientific Paper No. 14. Published with the approval of the Director. Received for publication October 13, 1934.
2 Associate Agronomist.
3 Figures in parenthesis refer to “Literature Cited,” p. 1011.