A PROMISING WILT-RESISTANT LONG STAPLE COTTON

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A SELECTION of Delfos cotton made at the Northeast Louisiana Experiment Station, St. Joseph, Louisiana, by the junior author, in 1934, has exhibited marked resistance to fusarium wilt in tests conducted for the past three years on the heavily infested wilt plots at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

In a test of 16 varieties of cotton in 1936 at Baton Rouge for wilt resistance it was noted that this selection of Delfos was one of the outstanding wilt-resistant varieties, with productivity also fairly good. In a further test of 10 new strain and hybrid cottons for wilt resistance in 1937, the Delfos selection, namely, Delfos 2323-965-425, remained almost free of wilt throughout the season, showing, as late as September 8, only 0.3% infection of a total population of over 600 plants. In comparison, Half and Half, a susceptible variety with a population of 516 plants, developed approximately 63% wilt. In one series, comprising row sections 100 feet long in which the above varieties were compared, Half and Half developed 100% infection by September 8, while the Delfos remained entirely healthy (Fig. 1).

FIG. 1.—Wilt infection in new strain and hybrid cottons at Baton Rouge, La., in 1937. Left, Stoneville X D. P. L. 4-8; center, Half and Half; right, Delfos 2323-965-425. Photographed August 4.

This wilt-resistant selection was originally made from a plant of Delfos 2323-965 cotton which remained healthy throughout the season of 1934 in an infested area on the experiment station plots at

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