A Comparative Study of Seven Methods of Measuring Earliness of Crop Maturity in Cotton

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LACK of agreement among cotton breeders on the meaning of the term earliness of crop or boll maturity and on methods of measuring or estimating earliness in cotton is due in great part to the fact that the genus *Gossypium* is characterized by an indeterminate flowering and fruiting habit. The practical interest of cotton growers, as well as breeders, is in the relative time required to set and mature a crop of bolls.

The analysis of methods of measuring earliness of maturity in experimental stocks of American Upland cotton, *G. hirsutum* L., given here was part of a more comprehensive experiment designed to determine the inheritance of earliness as well as to study the relation of earliness to certain agronomic characters and to identify genetically some of the chromosomes on which genes for earliness might be located.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Extensive studies on the growth pattern of the cotton plant and the characteristics of the different varieties that condition early maturity have been reported by Ewing (3), Martin et al. (8), Harland (5), McNamara et al. (9, 10),

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