

Table 2 Common pests which damage the cotton crops (Boyd et al., 2004)

Inseccts	Damage	Seasonal occurance	Susceptible crop stage
Cutworms	Girdle stems at base, clip leaves off.	April - May	Seedling -4 th leave
Thirps	Brown wrinkled leaves, curled upword. Reduces photosynthesis and growth rate.	April – May	Seedling - 4 th leave
Aphids	Suck at terminal buds and leaves. Leaves crinkle and curl downward. Deposit honey dew at leaves that serves as growth media for fungi.	May – September	Seedling – Open boll
Plant bugs	Brownish, deformed and stunted bolls that are eventually shed off.	May – June	1 st four weeks of squaring
Cotton boll worms	Feed on terminal squares and bolls and destroy them.	June – September	Bloom – harvest
Whiteflies	Cause premature defoliation and poor boll development. Mold grows on the honey-dew deposited by white flies.	June – September	Bloom – harvest
European corn borer	Holes in the bolls and sawdust like dropping around holes.	July – September	Bloom – harvest
Stink bugs	Suck the plant fluids, blank spots on the bolls and discolored lint and seed.	August – September	Bloom – harvest