

FARM HYGIENE

Introduction

Weeds are a major problem on most Australian cotton farms and considerable amounts of money are spent annually on the management of weeds that interfere within the cotton crop. Often, however, weeds growing in fallows, along roads, channels and storages and the waste areas on farms are neglected, and these may have a significant impact on production by infesting cotton crops. These weeds can be spread into fields via machinery, water flow in channels and by a number of other means. It is essential that a complete integrated weed management strategy account for the weeds associated with these areas.

This section contains information on a number of different areas of farm hygiene. The following articles have been included in this section: -

F2. Farm Hygiene in Integrated Weed Management,

F3. Managing Weeds on Roads, Channels and Storages,

F4. Controlling Volunteer Cotton and

F5. Plant Protection Interactions with Weeds.

F2. Farm Hygiene in Integrated Weed Management

The first article explains that there are a number of steps in achieving good farm hygiene including the identification and detection of weeds, cleaning down machinery and practicing integrated weed management.

F3. Managing Weeds on Roads, Channels and Storages

Good farm hygiene extends to roads, channels and storages. The management of weeds in these areas is explained in the second article. This article also explains what species may be present and how these species spread.

F4. Controlling Volunteer Cotton

Volunteer cotton is one of the more prevalent weeds in cotton farming systems. The third article reviews the management of volunteer cotton with sections on the control of seedlings, established cotton and ratoon cotton.

F5. Plant Protection Interactions with Weeds.

The last article in this section flags the interactions that the common insects and disease causing organisms have with weeds. The interaction between weeds and insects has been well documented in Integrated Pest Management Guidelines for Cotton Production Systems in Australia an Australian Cotton CRC publication. The interaction between weeds, pathogens and cotton diseases is covered in greater detail and a list of weeds known to be hosts of cotton pathogens is included.

