

Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

The University of Sydney

N.S.W. 2006 Australia



Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Dr Guy Roth,
Chief Executive Officer,
Cotton Catchment Communities CRC,
Narrabri, NSW 2390.

Dear Bruce,

Re: CRDC Honours Project – Meredith Errington

This report details the literature and experimental program of Miss Meredith Errington for her honours at this University. She has been awarded First Class Honours.

The main research outcomes of her project are:

1. Six foliar fertilizers were applied during boll filling to cotton crops at Carroll and at the Australian Cotton Research Institute.
2. The project has defined the thermal times over which foliar fertilizers can be applied at least to one cultivar. It shows that bolls have variable demands for nutrients ie demand is not constant or synchronous for all nutrients. This work is potentially publishable.
3. There was virtually no evidence that the leaves of the cotton plant absorbed any foliar fertilizer during the 2005-6 season. There is more than one explanation as to why foliar applications of nutrients failed to be taken up by the plant. In my view, the most likely explanation is the very high temperatures coupled with low humidity affected the ability of the leaf to absorb nutrients.

Given the interest by growers in foliar fertilizers, including top growers who use these products, further work is warranted.

Furthermore, the extension outcomes to date are:

- (i) Cotton Science Meeting (Gold Coast): presentation to selected growers
- (ii) 13th Australian Cotton Conference (Gold Coast) – abstract
- (iii) Australian Society of Soil Science, Australian Plant and Soil Analysis Council and Australian Clay Minerals Society (December, 2006) – poster.

Also, it is intended to publish a paper in a refereed journal based on part of this thesis.

Best wishes,

Lindsay C. Campbell
Leader Sciences Group.