Cotton Catchment Communities CRC
Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

COTTON *TALES*

Central Queensland

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Incentive program- discounted Storage & Pump meters. *By Lance Pendergast*

An incentive program, designed to assist the purchase of metering capacity, has been developed on behalf of CHCG&I Association with FBA & CHRRUP.

Anyone interested in receiving a 25% discount on the purchase price of electronic storage &/or pump meters is encouraged to contact me for further details within the next two weeks as intention to participate in this funding opportunity must be finalised by 20th March.

Negotiation with suppliers has resulted in the availability of easily installed, reliable & user friendly meters at a discounted price. These meters will allow for improved scheduling on farm.

- Irrimate storage meters provide a continuous record of storage status that can be readily downloaded whenever convenient.
- Agri flometers precisely record volumes pumped & can result in improvements in pumping efficiencies (with the associated reduction in fuel bills).

As CHRRUP requires that notification of intention to participate in this offer is finalised by 20th March (i.e. aprox 2 weeks), there is some urgency so, if interested, please call Lance asap for details.

CQ Trap crop destruction

In cooler cotton regions a key method of controlling resistance in Helicoverpa is cultivating the soil to kill overwintering pupae. In CQ, Helicoverpa produced late in the season do not overwinter in the soil. Instead they emerge about 15 days after they pupate and continue to breed in lower numbers throughout the winter. This means that in CQ pupae busting is not an effective resistance management tool.

A pigeon pea Trap Crop is required as an alternative. These plantings should be most attractive after the cotton has cut-out so that any moths emerging from Bollgard II cotton fields at the end of the season will lay their eggs in the Trap Crop. Once the cotton has been picked, the Trap Crop should be destroyed (slashed & pupae busted) within 2-4 weeks, ensuring that no larvae or pupae survive.

Given the high and potentially increasing frequency of alleles conferring Cry2Ab resistance in *H. punctigera* and *H. armigera*, it is essential that the resistance management plan is adhered to correctly to ensure the longevity of this technology.

Desiccation of Mungbeans - an Aid to Harvest

Mungbeans have an indeterminate flowering habit. This means that they do not have a defined flowering period & consequently, can have flowers, green pods & black pods present on the plant at the same time. This growth habit can make the harvesting decision difficult.

The ideal stage for desiccation & harvest is when the majority of pods are physiologically mature, & 90% of the pods have turned either yellow or black.

The key point when desiccating mungbeans is the use of a robust rate of product & allowing sufficient time for the crop to dry down before commencing harvest. Some points to consider:

- Product Choice: Reglone® & Roundup PowerMAX® have very different modes of action, which may suit different situations:
  - **a.** Roundup PowerMAX®: when used at the higher rates, provides the most consistent dry-down of both leaf & stem moisture.
  - **b.** Reglone®; due to its rapid action, is commonly used if rainfall is likely around harvest time. However, if rainfall interrupts harvest regrowth may occur as early as 10 days after application & may require re-treatment.
- Plant Vigour: Large healthy crops that are actively growing with adequate levels of soil moisture require higher product rates.
- Variety: Emerald, White Gold & Crystal are more likely to require high product rates because of their ability to remain green & healthy.
- Water Quality & pH: Reduced results may occur if water containing suspended clay or organic matter is used (e.g. from dams, streams & irrigation channels), or which has high levels of calcium, magnesium or bicarbonate ions. Water pH should be neutral to slightly acidic.
- Spray Application: Use a nozzle & pressure range to generate a fine to medium spray quality with sufficient total water volume to ensure good canopy penetration & coverage, typically 80 to 100 L/ha when applied by ground rig.
- Time to Harvest: There is a common tendency to harvest too soon after desiccation. The rate of dry-down of the crop will depend on choice of desiccant, rate used, temperature & moisture conditions. You should wait for maximum dry down of leaf & stem moisture, which can take 5 – 6 days with Reglone & 7 – 16 days for Roundup PowerMAX. Always obey the products Withholding Period.

Registered Products for Desiccation of Mungbeans

Product	Rate	Time to Maximum Desiccation	Withholding Period (WHP)
Reglone®	2.0 – 3.0 L/ha	5 – 6 days	0 Days
Roundup PowerMAX®	0.98 – 1.8 L/ha	7 – 16 days	7 Days

Refer to the current product label for full directions for use.

For further information contact Pulse development officers Jayne Gentry, DPI&F ph. 0428 459 138 jayne.gentry@dpi.qld.gov.au OR Gordon Cumming, Pulse Australia, ph. 0408 923 474, pulse.gordon@bigpond.com

Mungbean Field Walks

Central Highlands: Thurs 19 March 7:30 am – 8:30 am @'Elkview" 1489 Wills Rd, Emerald.

Dawson/Callide: Thurs 19 March 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm @ 'Araluen" Sara's Lane, Biloela.

For details please contact: Jayne Gentry 0428459138