

IRMS now available

The 2008/09 Insect Resistance Management Strategy for cotton can be downloaded from the Cotton CRC website www.cottoncrc.org.au. Key change this season for the Downs is:

- New insecticide Altacor™ belonging to the chemical group 28 rynaxypyr is available all season with a maximum of 3 sprays in total.

Rodents on the move

Of late there have been a number of reports on the movement of rodents in winter cereals. Monitoring across the sampling area between Cecil Plains to Mt Tyson has indicated that the populations are surprisingly patchy. Advice is to walk in and check your crops for evidence of mice damage. Be mindful that if your crop is baited towards the end of the season there is a 14 day withholding period before harvest can commence.

Planting considerations

It has been estimated that approximately 25,000 ha irrigated and 5,000 ha dryland of cotton will be sown this season.

Please note the approved variation change to the Bollgard II planting window - ***All Bollgard II crops are to be planted into moisture or watered up by 15 November...***

There may be a few things to consider before planting.

Seedling establishment is best if minimum soil temperatures at 10cm are above 14°C for 3 consecutive days which equates to 16°C in the seed zone. Sowing below ideal soil temperatures and cool weather soon after planting can increase the incidence of seedling disease, eg Rhizoctonia, Black Root Rot, Fusarium wilt and Pythium.

Delayed sowing minimises the time period when cotton is exposed to conditions favourable for disease development.

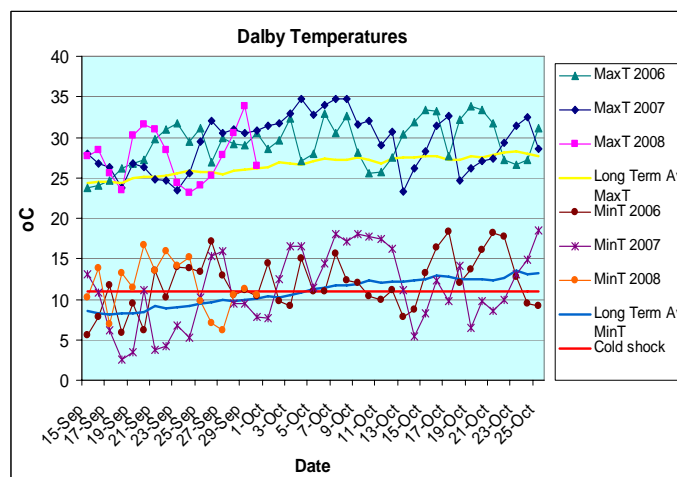
The potential for delayed sowing must be weighed against the need to maintain acceptable yield. High yielding Bollgard II® cotton varieties may enable yield potential to be maintained with delayed sowing.

Planting rate trials (1 m spaced rows) conducted by John Marshall (CSD) near Dalby over a number of seasons found that yield was fairly stable across different plant populations with little change in yield from 7–13 plants/m². He recommends aiming for 8–10 plants/m² (seeding at 14-15 seeds/m² estimating 75% establishment) as that plant population was the most consistently high yielding across the seasons. Seeding rates that ensure good, even establishment, without being too low (<6-4 plants/m²) are recommended.

Seedling cotton is susceptible to chilling injury at 3 stages after planting:

- The first few hours
- After 20-30 hours and
- 6-7 days after sowing.

Emerged seedlings suffer cold shock if minimum daily temperature is <11°C. Cold shock can affect the root system through the entire season. Early symptoms include; no elongation in hypocotyl, symptoms of wilting, necrotic leaf growth and no growth. Temperatures for this season, 2007 season and historical long term average temperatures, are shown in the graph below.



Nutrition

Ensure phosphorus and zinc levels are adequate at planting as these nutrients are the most critical for seedling emergence and growth.

Soil Insects

False wireworms are the key insect pest at cotton planting/seedling emergence. False wireworms are difficult to sample but are generally found at the top of the intersection of wet and dry soil. Cutworms can also cause damage to young seedlings post emergence and are more likely to be found in fields that have weeds present, especially in lower lying areas where soil remains damp.

False wireworm larvae are needed for a resistance monitoring project. If anyone encounters numbers of false wireworm larvae in fields over the next few weeks, please contact Dave Murray on 46881326.

Last chance for free overhead system checks!

Is your Centre pivot/Lateral move working to the best of its ability? Is it working to specifications? If you are interested in having a system check done to gauge performance please contact Jenelle on 46690825.