



COTTON TALES

Central Queensland

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Bollgard II planting requirements and summary of RMP changes:

The resistance management plan is based on three basic principles:

1. Minimising the exposure of *Helicoverpa* spp. to the Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) proteins Cry 1Ac and Cry 2Ab;
2. Providing a population of susceptible individuals that can mate with any resistant individuals, hence diluting any potential resistance; and
3. Removing resistant individuals at the end of the cotton season.

Due to industry concerns about high and possibly increasing resistance a number of changes have been made to the RMP.

- **Planting window** - All Bollgard II crops in Callide, Dawson, & Central Highlands are to be planted into moisture or watered-up between 22 September to 2 November.
- **Planting window for refuge** – the planting of the refuge has been tightened to ensure that it is attractive to *Helicoverpa* spp. during the growing period of Bollgard II. The new condition stipulates it is preferential to have all the refuge planted in the 2 weeks prior to planting Bollgard II, however sets out new conditions if this is not possible (for example if soil temperature is less than 17°C):

“..Refuge planting must be completed within 3 weeks of the first day of sowing of Bollgard II. At this time, sufficient refuge must have been planted to cover all of the Bollgard II cotton proposed to be planted for the season (including Bollgard II already planted and any that remains unplanted). Should additional Bollgard II planting be made after this date, which is not already covered by refuge, additional refuge must be planted as soon as possible and no more than 2 weeks after sowing of the additional Bollgard II.”

- **Location of refuge** – All reasonable effort should be taken to plant the refuge on either one side of, or next to a Bollgard II field, and all Bollgard II fields should be no more than 2km from the refuge. For example if refuge is in field 1 and Bollgard II is in field 2 the two closest points of these fields must be within 2km.
- **Trap Crop** – As pupae destruction is not an effective option in CQ, a late summer pigeon pea trap crop is required.

There is no longer an option to have the trap crop incorporated as part of the refuge. The trap crop is an additional 1%.

- Table 3 in RMP sets out minimum area, planting rates etc for trap crop.
- **Planting window for Trap Crop** – The trap crop must be planted between November 20 and December 20. The RMP states: *A pigeon pea trap crop is to be planted so that it is attractive (flowering) to Helicoverpa spp. after the cotton crop has cut out, and as any survivors from the Bollgard II crop emerge. Planting pigeon pea too early (before mid-November) or too late (e.g. January) is not adequate for cotton crops planted during September through to October.*

If unsure on any issues relating to the RMP, please contact Toby Makim, Monsanto, 0400691881

Resistance Roadshow:

To find out more on the industry concerns about resistance that have led to these changes to the RMP come along to the Resistance Roadshow.

Emerald Wednesday, 26 Aug 4pm - 6:30pm. Ag College

Theodore Thursday, 27 Aug 10am-12:30pm. Theodore Pub