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

COTTON *TALES*

Central Queensland

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2009/10
No.07
24/12/09

Day Degree accumulation to the 23 Dec 09

District		09/10	08/09	Average	Hot days (>36°C)	Cold shock
Emerald	From 22/09/09	1286	1260	1263	36	5
Emerald	From 2/11/09	809	803	778	30	0
Theodore	From 22/09/09	1243	1177	1133	32	11
Theodore	From 2/11/09	797	761	704	29	0

"Moneybeans" *By Jayne Gentry, DEEDI*
Mungbeans may be a profitable option this summer, with recent contracts for No. 1 Processing beans as high as $900/t. Mungbeans are a very quick crop, only taking about 90 days from planting to harvest & will fix Nitrogen so have low fertiliser requirements.

The "Mungbean Management Guide" is a comprehensive publication and is currently available by contacting Jayne Gentry, QPIF, ph 0746881524. Below is a checklist to consider when planning and growing a mungbean crop.

1. Discuss variety choice and marketing strategy with a mungbean marketer.
Two new varieties were released last season, Crystal and Satin II. Both varieties performed well. Crystal is a shiny green mungbean variety, suitable for a wide variety of markets; however Satin II is dull seeded with only a niche market currently available.
2. Purchase Australian Mungbean Association approved seed or, if using grower-retained seed, test before planting and replace every three years.
As seed quality deteriorates over time ensure seed tests are performed yearly and seed is turned over every three years with AMA approved seed.
3. Avoid paddocks with major variations in soil type or unevenness.
The crop needs to be as even as possible to aid in insect management and harvest
4. Assess weed status of the paddock (broadleaf weed control options are limited).
Ensure mungbeans are not planted into a problem paddock. Mungbeans offer an opportunity to switch chemical groups important for IWM and allows the very effective control of summer grasses in crop.
5. Be aware of any residual herbicide risks.
Chemicals of particular concern include Tordon, Glean or atrazine when used in the preceding crop.
6. Stay within recommended planting windows.
For CQ planting can be as late as early March, but recommended to be end Feb.
7. Fertilise according to paddock history (especially after a long fallow) and soil test analysis.
Particularly consider phosphorus and zinc fertiliser when planting after a long fallow (i.e. >12 months) as they are highly dependant on VAM. Sulphur may be required after a double crop situation.
8. Effective inoculation.
Effective inoculation is essential if good nodulation is to be achieved. Low yields may occur under poor inoculation and low soil nitrogen levels. Only inoculate seed that you can plant that day. Seed should be planted into moisture immediately after inoculation to maximise nodulation.
9. Ensure good, even plant establishment with adequate plant populations.
The newer varieties being released have a much larger seed size. Calculate planting rate each year.
10. Monitor disease status in crop.
The three most significant diseases are Powdery mildew, Tan Spot and Halo blight. There is very little growers can do about Tan Spot or Halo blight except ensure clean seed is planted. However Powdery mildew may infect crop under cooler conditions particularly in late crops and a foliar spray of Headland Sulphur™ at 3L/ha may be warrented.
11. Timely insect control,
Check crops weekly during vegetative stages and at least twice weekly from budding through to pod fill.
12. Timely, effective desiccation before harvest.
The ideal stage for harvest is when the majority of pods are physiologically mature, and 90% of the pods have either turned yellow or black.
Fact sheet available at www.mungbean.org.au.

Early Season Disease Survey 2009 – Emerald & Theodore *By Linda Smith DEEDI*
Early season disease surveys have been completed in Emerald and Theodore. Seedling disease caused by Pythium, Rhizoctonia and some wireworm was observed in nine out of 28 fields surveyed (32%).

Although not a new disease, cortical root disease caused by Sclerotia rolfsii is not a disease often observed in cotton during disease surveys. Southern blight is the term adopted for cortical root diseases caused by S. rolfsii in a wide range of crops in the US. Cotton is not as susceptible to this pathogen as many other crops, but in the US, cotton is often included in rotations with susceptible crops such as peanut. 8 fields out of 28 surveyed (29%) had plants that were severely wilted. When these plants were removed from the soil, dark brown lesions could be seen on the lower stem at and below soil level. A mat of white hyphae was observed on diseased tissue, often with sclerotia. These are typical symptoms of S.rolfsii.

No Fusarium wilt was detected, even though fields with a history of Fusarium wilt were visited in Theodore. This is probably due to the warm, dry conditions, which are not conducive to this disease.

There were some volunteer cotton plants in-crop, along roadsides & in channels. It is important to remove these unwanted plants as they can harbour pests and diseases.