



Co-vert! A new strain of defoliating verticillium

A newly identified defoliating strain of *Verticillium* wilt has been detected in Queensland and NSW. In this special CottonInfo e-alert, we bring you the key things you need to know - and do - about this strain.

Five key things you need to know:

1. Although the industry has managing *Verticillium* wilt on cotton for years, a newly identified defoliating strain has been detected in QLD and NSW.
2. The new defoliating strain is highly virulent and can completely defoliate a cotton plant.
3. The defoliating strain produces symptoms similar to non-defoliating strains of *Verticillium* wilt and *Fusarium* wilt.
4. Government scientists suspect defoliating *Verticillium* has been around since the 1980's but are working to establish where it is and the best ways to deal with it. As soon as more information is available, it will be communicated to you.
5. You can help stop the spread of the disease through good farm hygiene - remember to [Come Clean, Go Clean](#).

What do you need to do?

- Inspect crops for signs of *Verticillium* wilt, noting that they can be similar to symptoms of *Fusarium* wilt. They begin with patchy yellowing between the veins of the leaf. Light to dark brown discolouration can be seen in the stem when cut diagonally and, as the disease progresses, there is a sudden and almost total defoliation and shedding of the bolls.
- If you suspect the disease is in your crop, **call the national Exotic Plant**

Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. If you are unsure, send several stem samples to your state's pathologist (contact details in the fact sheet below).

- Practice biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Remember **Come Clean Go Clean** on the farm and between farms:
- Inspect, wash down and decontaminate machinery and equipment, including clothing, using appropriate spray treatments.
 - Communicate the need for farm hygiene to everyone on the farm.
- For more information on farm biosecurity visit the [CottonInfo website](#), [myBMP website](#) or the [Farm Biosecurity website](#).

Where do you go for more?

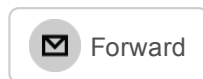
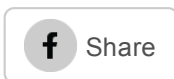
1. [This fact sheet](#) from the CottonInfo team contains key information and management tactics for the new strain.

2. If you suspect the disease is in your crop, call the national Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

3. If you are unsure, send several stem samples to your state's pathologist (see the fact sheet for their contact details).

4. CRDC/CottonInfo will be hosting a Verticillium wilt industry coordination meeting at ACRI, Narrabri, this Thursday 16 April. Growers and consultants are invited to attend. The meeting will address grower and industry concerns, Verticillium wilt research to date, and research gaps and opportunities. *(Please note that while the meeting is in response to grower concerns about Verticillium, at this time there is limited information available about the defoliating strain, hence the focus of the meeting is Verticillium more broadly).* [Details here](#).

5. For questions or to enquire about a verticillium wilt meeting in your area, contact your [CottonInfo regional development officer](#).



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