

# The Cotton Wrap - The March Edition



Welcome to the 7th edition of the Cotton Wrap!!

## Dryland Cotton

A special thanks to Dale Foster who came out to the field East of Bellata to show us what the new NDF planter units are capable of. Paul Slack may have had country a little better in condition than most and the NDF did a beautiful job placing seed down to around 5 ½ to 6 inches deep. The disc at the front is 22 inches in diameter and is set at a slight angle to create a trench when placing the seed. Closure of the trench is with a very neat wheel which presses from the side and ensures wet soil is in contact with the seed. A scalloped disc at the rear puts a little dry dirt on to prevent crusting. A few Bellata growers wanted to plant to 7 inches and so Dale headed out to Phil Christie's the following week with a larger 24 inch disc to get greater depth. It certainly did a great job although we still had trouble getting to 7 inches. Bruce Kirkby did say though, that he felt moving the soil after planting the seed is a much better way than with trash wippers removing soil before seed placement so more work to do in order to plant deep.



Electric powered precision seed boxes



For more information contact Dale Foster on 0427 692 063 Or visit the website on [www.ndf.com.au](http://www.ndf.com.au)

We also had a look at Doug Cush's conventional crop which was decimated by hail. Most bolls were knocked completely off and the ones which remained were severely damaged.



Bruising caused by hail.



Note 2 airbags with trench disc and coulter on different pressure

You will also see the picture below of a standalone planter box with e-sets and an electric motor which fits on top of the unit and has seed delivered from the normal bulk airseeder box. The other advantage is that with the units being setup on 15 inch spacing you have excess units to distribute fertiliser when planting on metre rows.

CottonInfo is a joint-venture of CRDC, CSD and Cotton Australia



For further information contact Geoff Hunter on 0458 142 777





# The Cotton Wrap - The March Edition



We ended up at "Myall Plains" Terry Hie Hie, where we heard from Mike Bange on a small Pix experiment where we did see some difference between treatments, hand picking for yield will be done today.

## Premature Senescence or Verticillium?

There have been many reports of premature senescence and Verticillium throughout the valley and so Rob Eveleigh has shared some information. It's easy to find crops with brown patches, but is all the browning verticillium? The easiest way to differentiate between premature senescence and verticillium is to break open the stem and look for a brown discoloration. If there some browning of the vascular tissue it is most likely to be verticillium wilt.



Typical symptoms of Verticillium when stem is cut.

Keep a record of fields that have high levels of verticillium wilt as there will be large numbers of spores deposited in the field and the risk of verticillium occurring in subsequent years will be much higher. Incorporating crop residues and rotating with a cereal crop is a recommended management strategy. It may take more than one rotation cycle to reduce the numbers of verticillium spores down to an acceptable level.

Crops that exhibit premature senescence are most likely the result of potassium deficiency. However other nutrients can also be linked to the disorder. Premature senescence is mostly commonly seen in high yielding crops. Nutrients are transferred from the leaves to the bolls when the plant cannot extract enough potassium from the soil. If fields have a

history of premature senescence applications of K should be considered.

Rob has also seen a lot of senescence this year which he puts down to the high yield potential and if maturity is greater than 60% it is not considered premature.



Premature Senescence



Verticillium

## Around the Traps

I read a great story from Trevor Johnstone relating events with groundwater aquifers in the Mississippi Delta in the US. Chip Morgan at the recent annual meeting of the Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association said: "We have 35 years of data showing about a 1 foot to 1.5 foot per year decline in the aquifer Delta-wide."

In the Delta itself there are 17 656 permitted wells and 35 years of data shows an average decline in levels of 1- 1.5 ft per year. Furthermore they are still

CottonInfo is a joint-venture of CRDC, CSD and Cotton Australia



For further information contact  
Geoff Hunter on 0458 142 777

Best Practice



# The Cotton Wrap - The March Edition



learning about primary recharge sources and none of the wells have meters installed. So they have a plan to get farmers to Voluntarily install meters and the hope is that by February 2016 they might get 10% of the wells in the Delta with a meter installed...Wow! Also from the Cotton Wire, O.A. Cleveland, Professor Emeritus, Mississippi State University, is quoted by AgFax saying that current year sales of US cotton were spread across 19 countries, representing strong demand for U.S. cotton. The reason is that the Asian mills, while in the market for most grades, have a very keen interest in high quality and are scavenging the globe for it. In that regard, the Chinese did announce last week that the government is reviewing proposals to allow more cotton to be imported. The textile industry, in a nutshell, told the government they need imported quality cotton if they are to operate the spinning mills, i.e., that the strategic reserve cotton cannot be used to produce saleable yarn.

## Crop Competition

While out and about judging the Walgett Crop comp we came across some damage from Ally.



Hand Model Sam showing off damage caused by Ally.

Nominations close this week for Cotton Grower of the Year Awards. It is a very simple process to enter and can be done at [www.australiancottonawards.com](http://www.australiancottonawards.com)



Out at Walgett with Sam, Rob and Simon judging the winner of the annual Walgett Crop Competition



Clinton Freer and Rob judging the Lower Namoi crop comp



Jeff Hamblin in a very handy crop entered in the local crop comp.

## Trials

The first defoliation went out on one of the N trial sites this week. Some senescence but good boll loads and no difference between treatments are obvious. Boll counts of around 130- 140 per metre but very good sized bolls so hoping for a good pick.

CottonInfo is a joint-venture of CRDC, CSD and Cotton Australia



For further information contact  
Geoff Hunter on 0458 142 777



# The Cotton Wrap - The March Edition



## CQ Update

Picking is wrapping up and generally the region is all smiles with crops between 10 and 11.5 bales/Ha appearing to be common. Theodore fared better than expected from the influence of Cyclone Martha. Fairbairn Dam is above 60% capacity and so allocations for next year should be 100% which augers well for next year.

## What's On

CQ Nutrition workshops with Dr Chris Dowling

**West EIA** Tuesday April 21, 11.30am – 5.00pm:

Emerald DAF conference room, Lunch and afternoon tea provided

**Comet River** Wednesday April 22, 11.30am – 5.00pm:

Host & chef Will Woolcock AACo, Goonoo Farm via Comet, Lunch and BBQ with 'refreshments' following

**East EIA** Thursday April 23 – 7am – 1.30pm: Host &

chefs Denis & Aaron Kiely, Deniliza Downs, BBQ

Breakfast and morning

**Contact** Liz Alexander 0429 471 511 or

[liz@bluedogag.com](mailto:liz@bluedogag.com)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**- BGIII field walk at "Kilmarnock" Boggabri is postponed until date to be decided.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**- Brownhill Cup winner Field day

at "Kilmarnock" Boggabri. **RSVP: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

(for catering): North West LLS 6742 9220

**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>** Cotton Awards Dinner, Cotton Collective and Tradeshow in Narrabri.

## Where's That?

This is a new section showing a few local landmarks. Who knows where this is???



## Sayings of the Month

*"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."* Milton Berle.

*"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."*

Winston Churchill.

## Welshy's Weather

Mixed blessings in the multi-week outlook for April with some moisture filtering through from a warm Indian Ocean. Ex-tropical cyclone Nathan is likely to help moisture reserves for parched dry-land fallows and hinder cotton picking operations. On a broad scale, scientists in the US are very cautious about claims of an El Niño in 2015. The next two months are the tail end of the 2014 near El Niño event and these processes won't be settled until around mid-May when the cycle starts again. In the meantime, the BOM has issued a reasonably optimistic rainfall outlook for the next 3 months. This needs to be treated in context of very low connectivity of key indicators with rainfall in this region. The temperature outlook for April shows an average to warmer than normal condition for the commencement of picking, mainly concentrated in Northern NSW and Qld. When planning 2015 winter cropping and investment decisions, a good explanation of events driving a potential El Niño can be found here (remember, northern hemisphere spring is our autumn):

<https://vimeo.com/122603246>

*Until next time*

*Cheers*

*Geoff*

CottonInfo is a joint-venture of CRDC, CSD and Cotton Australia



For further information contact  
Geoff Hunter on 0458 142 777

