



COTTON TALES

2007/08

Lower Balonne Region

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03/09/07

Major Upgrade for Cotton Nutrition Tools

<http://tools.cotton.crc.org.au/CottonLOGIC/NutriLOGIC/>

The NutriLOGIC program has recently undergone a major revision; it is now more user-friendly, provides information and analytical support for all major nutrients, provides interpretation of soil, petiole and leaf analyses and is relevant for high and low yielding cotton crops.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web is an uncomplicated tool delivered through the Cotton CRC website, designed to aid cotton nutrient management. The information presented is derived from up-to-date cotton nutrition research.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web helps interpret soil and leaf analyses for all major nutrients, and indicates when fertiliser application may be warranted for individual fields. Petiole nitrate analyses are also interpreted. Growers need only enter the sowing and sampling dates, and the chemical analyses from their laboratory report.

Monitoring the nutrient status of each cotton field is essential to optimise yields and use fertilisers effectively. Inappropriate use of fertilisers affects profitability through increased input costs; excessive use of N fertilisers may damage the environment through greenhouse gas emissions and contamination of groundwater.

Specifically, the tool helps to interpret levels of the major nutrients (N, P, K & S) from soil tests and indicates where soil sodicity and salinity may affect production. The N fertiliser calculations have been fine-tuned to allow for cropping history, soil compaction and crop response to N inputs.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web also interprets petiole nitrate nitrogen analyses to indicate crop N status and suggests fertiliser addition if required. To save time NutriLOGIC automatically retrieves Growing Day Degree data from the weather station selected, based on the crop sowing and sampling dates entered.

Importantly, NutriLOGIC-on-the-web can now interpret both major and minor nutrient levels in leaves sampled throughout the season and can indicate whether the nutrient status is adequate for that stage of crop growth.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web provides general information on soil fertility and cotton nutrition through direct links to NUTRIpak and SOILpak. These links contain further information on cotton crop nutrition requirements, sampling techniques for soil or plant tissue, soil structure and soil chemistry.

Future upgrades will include graphing capabilities and integrate information on nutrient removal, based on cotton yields.

Thanks to Dirk Richards, Sandra Deutscher and Ian Rochester, CSIRO and the Cotton CRC for their contribution in developing this information.

CRCIF Centre Pivot and Lateral Move Training Course

The Co-operative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures is offering national training courses for consultants and growers on centre pivot and lateral move irrigation systems.

A two day course for growers / managers will be held at the Goondiwindi Training and Technology Centre, 15-21 Russell St, on the 19th & 20th of September. Times are from 8:30am – 4:30pm each day.

Registration Details: To register and view details of the Goondiwindi CP & LM course logon to the CRCIF web site listed below, complete the registration form and fax back to (02) 4570 1684.

www.irrigationfutures.org.au/imagesDB/events/CPLM_trainingcourseGoondiwindi.pdf

The cost of the course is \$330 (including GST). This course is approved for FarmBis funding for Queensland participants and as such will receive a 65% subsidy on course fees and will pay \$115.50. Participants who are travelling will also receive 50% subsidy on accommodation and travel costs plus 75% subsidy for childcare.

As this is the first Cotton Tale for the 2007/08 season please let me know if you would like to change the way you receive this newsletter or wish to be taken off the distribution list.

Here's hoping for major river flows soon.

Regards, Dallas.