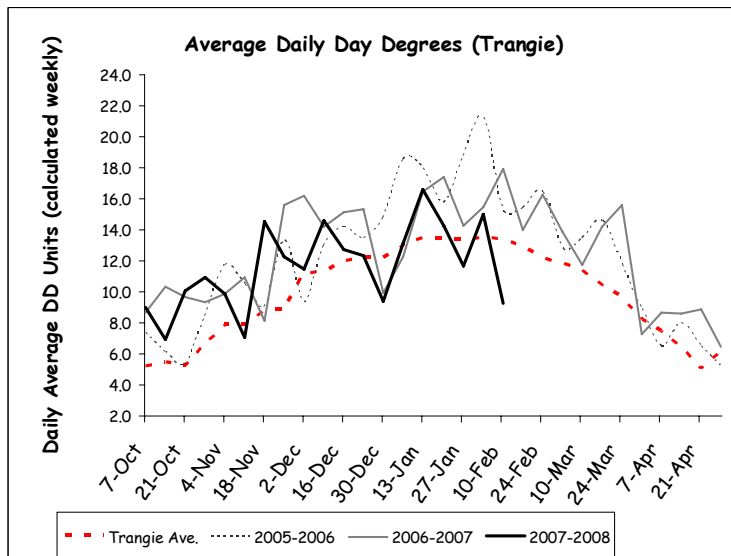
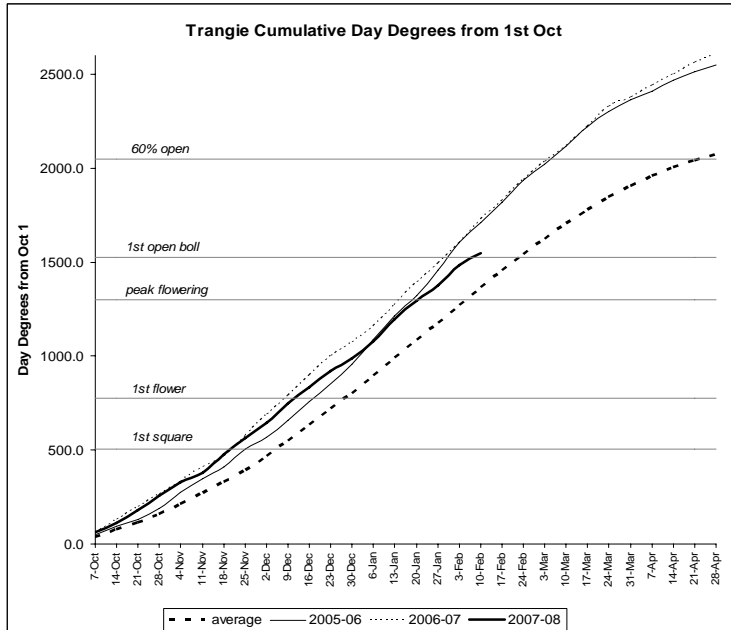


Day Degrees



Hot days (>36°C) up until 10/02/08 – 11

Long term average hot days for 1st Oct to 31st Mar - 30

The day degrees graphs show that even though the cumulative day degrees are still above the long term average, Recent lower temperatures mean daily day degrees are currently well below average and have been throughout much of late December, January and February.

The current weather conditions have included increased rainfall and mild, cloudy conditions. While the increase in rainfall has been very welcome, the mild cloudy conditions are not ideal for cotton growth. Some of the possible effects of a mild season on cotton growth include:

- **Shorter season length.** The average cotton crop takes around 2000 day degrees to mature. In a mild season, it takes longer to accumulate these day degrees meaning that the crop may be maturing into

autumn. If conditions turn cold in autumn, the crop may not be able to finish later fruit, effectively reducing yield potential. Defoliation can also be more difficult in cooler conditions and historically in the Macquarie Valley; a later pick increases the risk of a wet pick.

- **Fibre quality.** Temperature has a strong influence micronaire. In a milder season there may be an increase in the amount of low micronaire and potential for neps.
- **Reduced Yield Potential.** Boll development is driven by carbohydrate supply, which is directly related to the amount of solar radiation available. In cloudy conditions the rate of photosynthesis is reduced. This may result in a reduced number of bolls or reduced weight per boll. The combination of cloudy conditions with waterlogging reduces photosynthesis and hence boll size.
- **Disease Pressure.** Verticillium wilt favours milder late season conditions. The risk of Fusarium wilt symptoms developing is also increased in situations where crops are struggling to supply boll load demands. Late season humid conditions increase the risk of boll rots.

Thanks to Dr Greg Constable for assistance with this article.

Cotton Field to Fabric Training Course 22nd – 24th July 2008

Managing for quality through the production chain

This training course is designed to give participants an overview of the entire cotton pipeline from the farm to predicting fabric performance. It is recommended for people involved in any part of the cotton industry from growers to technologists and aims to give a better understanding of how segments of the industry operate and how each related to one another.

The course recently won the Cotton CRC 'Impact in Adoption' Award and comes highly recommended but places are limited due to the hands on nature **so get in early!** The next course will be held on the 22nd-24th of July at the CSIRO Textile & Fibre Technology Centre, Belmont, Victoria and costs \$550 pp for the three days, including lunch each day and dinner on the Tuesday.

Application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.csiro.au/resources/pfzt.html> or contact me and I can send one out. For more information please contact Rene van der Sluijs on 03 52 464738 or Rene.vandersluijs@csiro.au.