

A tale from the South.

It has certainly been an interesting few weeks since the last Cottontales. We saw the great start of some very nice crops in most areas, while the dry and hot start and the need to finish some irrigated cereal crops led to later than desired starts for other crops. It also seems to be the year for bore breakdowns. As a result, there is some variance in maturity with crops ranging from a few leaves to 10-plus leaves and some nice squares.



A couple of weeks ago we first heard of the unexpected crisis for the growers on the Murrumbidgee with a couple of mid season allocation adjustments. We went from nurturing emerging crops through the cycles of hot and shockingly cold weather to looking at ways to "knock" the cotton out and the other crop options that could be undertaken.

To the credit of the growers affected, they took it on the chin and began immediately to look for ways around the problem. Initially it looked like we were going to see half the MIA growers end their cotton season early. This week though, it looks like more cotton has been kept than the areas indicated two weeks ago and I will make a few calls next week to find out for sure.

To the guys that have had to let their cotton go, it was a tough roll of the dice. We would encourage you to continue to be a part of the industry and we welcome your attendance and participation in all events.

To top it all off, we have had Pete Hollingworth and a few others participate in Movember (raising funds

for Men's health). The photos have not been pretty. Well done though Pete.

Dave Williams – Acting Cotton IDO.

The next MIA Cotton Farm Walk will be held at Roger and Tim Commin's Whitton property, next week on Wednesday 6th of December at a 8am.

Meet at the Office near the Wine Storage. For directions contact Roger on All local growers and consultants are encouraged to attend.

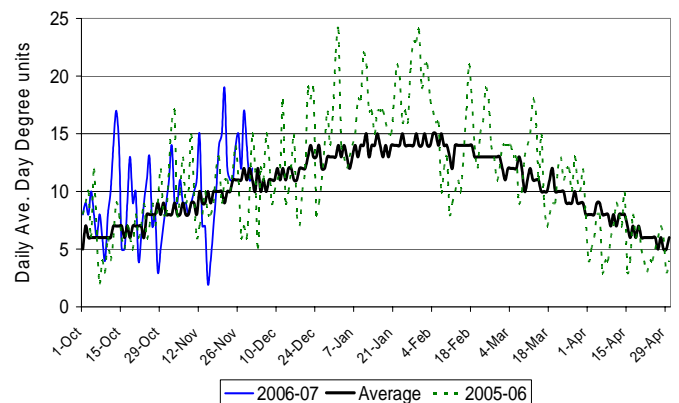
Day Degree Accumulation 1st Oct – 3rd Dec

Apart from the cold snap a couple of weeks ago and the drying condition during planting, the weather has been pretty kind to us. The season is well ahead of both last year and the long term average.

Met site	06/07	05/06	Aver	CS (*) 06/07	HD(*) 06/07
Benerembah	601	499	480	30 (35)	9 (3)
Carrathool	595	504	493	30 (34)	9 (4)
Whitton	604	504	496	29 (35)	10 (3)
Hay	584	504	499	32 (32)	7 (4)
Hillston	627	558	533	32 (28)	9 (5)

* Figures in brackets indicate average cold shock and hot days to 3/12/06.

Hillston Average Daily Day Degrees



Black Root Rot trial site visits

David Nehl (NSW DPI – Cotton CRC, Narrabri) visited his trial sites in both valleys a couple of weeks ago. He also included a new site at Whitton in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

I was able to catch up with him on two of the sites and there was plenty of Black Root Rot (BRR) in the first field. While BRR doesn't actually kill seedlings, it does slow growth and can delay maturity, but the plants do grow "through" it.



The other fields that we visited were found to have either low levels of BRR or were disease free. That prompted the question on how a field can become affected. The answer was simple. The disease is transported from infected areas to new areas through the movement of the pathogen in soil from infested fields.



Farm Hygiene – Come Clean, Go Clean.

While soil movement is not as prolific in dry times, wet times will come again and it is important to be aware of Farm Hygiene practices with the movement of contractors or machinery from other areas of infestation.

Any machinery that has worked in a cotton field,

including wheat headers, scrapers and excavators, could bring cotton pathogens to your farm.

**Make sure the gear is clean
before you bring it onto your farm.**

Cotton Australia issued notice:

Feeding of Gin Trash to Livestock:

As drought conditions continue to worsen across NSW and Queensland, livestock producers are looking to access emergency feed for livestock. Cotton Australia has been approached by individual cattle producers requesting that the cotton industry relax its policy of not allowing gin trash to be made available for livestock.

Cotton Australia (representing cotton growers) and the Australian Cotton Ginners Association have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Cattle Council of Australia and the Australian Lot Feeders Association agreeing, among other things, not to supply cotton gin trash to **any** person for any purpose including garden mulch, direct feeding to livestock or as an ingredient for manufactured stock feed.

Cotton Australia and the Australian Cotton Ginners Association have no choice but to ensure that the terms and conditions of the MOU are strictly adhered to. There are several very valid reasons why this must be done, which include the fact that continued access to endosulfan by the cotton industry hinges on this MOU.

Secondly, there is a continued risk of livestock obtaining residue of a number of cotton chemicals from gin trash. The presence of minute residue in just one animal is sufficient to place our export beef markets in jeopardy.

The SAFEMEAT partnership, which includes senior representatives of DAFF, various state authorities, Cattle Council of Australia, MLA etc considered this issue at a meeting last Thursday and reported back to Cotton Australia.

In part, their report contained the following statement: *"The SAFEMEAT partnership was able to consider the issue and have congratulated Cotton Australia on their proactive handling. They have strongly and unconditionally reaffirmed support for the MOU. They have insisted that there*

are no appropriate grounds for gin trash to be fed to ruminants, regardless of any other factors."

In conclusion, the cotton industry must continue to support and enforce the terms and conditions of the MOU, with the support of the livestock industries that are also party to the MOU. Cotton gin trash cannot be supplied for the purposes of direct feeding to livestock, garden mulch or as an ingredient for manufactured stock feed.

Contact: Peter Cone 02 6742 4405

Late applications for UNE Cotton Course

Please note the last page of this Cottontales where there are enrolment details for the Cotton CRC's Cotton Production Course and that late applications will be considered.

Water use and scheduling of Bollgard cotton



Thanks to James Neilsen for providing the following requested information by Stephen Yeates and Dirk Richards, as he was unable to visit due to other commitments.

CSIRO research carried out over the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons compared the impact on yield and fibre quality (particularly staple length and micronaire) of increasing irrigation deficits at four crop stages on both Bollgard II® and conventional cotton. The following conclusions could be drawn from this:

Key Points

- Soil moisture extraction under fully irrigated conditions was the same in Bollgard®II and conventional varieties, except where season length allowed later crop and leaf growth in the conventional variety.
- Bollgard®II grown under fully irrigated, that is soil water deficits averaging 60mm, required 6.3ML/ha of irrigation water as opposed to 7.0ML/ha for the conventional full irrigation treatment.
- **Yields and soil water extraction of Bollgard®II and conventional cotton were the same when moisture stress occurred at early flowering.** However a significant yield loss occurred when compared to fully irrigated.
- With full irrigation, , Bollgard®II had the same yield or higher yield than conventional cotton but matured earlier due to more rapid boll setting.
- **Bollgard II was less able to compensate for water stress, particularly from peak flowering to cutout.** Another illustration of this was the later stress (cut-out) had more of an impact on staple length in conventional than Bollgard II®.
- A greater reduction in water use efficiency was apparent in Bollgard®II where moisture stress was experienced at or close to cut-out, except where late season rainfall alleviated this stress.
- The differences between Bollgard II® and conventional could be explained by a more rapid accumulation of yield due to higher retention and lower levels of terminal damage.
- Increasing deficits towards the latter part of the crop or reducing the final irrigation did not have a large impact in the one trial where this was included due to some beneficial rainfall at the end of this season.
- Micronaire is a complicated measure and very difficult to predict, however water stress during the fruiting period can have the tendency to increase micronaire.
- Research in 2006/2007 is focusing on optimising scheduling of Bollgard for yield and water use efficiency

For more information, contact Stephen Yeates or Dirk Richards 02 67991500

Nutrition Application Trial

Barry Haskins has developed a trial at Hillston in conjunction with cotton growers and consultants,

aiming to compare different types of foliar Zinc and other micro and macro nutrients in early applications in cotton with a control untreated. There are also a few treatments comparing potassium nitrate applications later in the season.

This is a fully replicated trial, and will be handpicked.

Barry has Nipro, Agrobest, Incitec Pivot and Agrichem co-operating with the trial.

This trial will be a first in Southern NSW, and Ian Rochester has been involved for advice on product selection and experience with previous trials.

For further details please contact Barry Haskins on 0427 700 418

Cotton Jargon

First Flower – This is the start of the business end of the season. A square (which have started to appear) will eventually form a flower which lasts and changes colour for a few days and then the cotton boll will form and grow after the flower drops off.

It is usually a bit of a race between Santa and the first flowers which are expected at the end of December. I think the flowers are going to win the race quite easily this year.

Upcoming Local Events

- Farm Walk at Commins, Whitton, **8am this Wednesday 6th of December.** Contact Dave Williams 0427 401 988

- The next **Cotton Growers Association** meeting will be held in Griffith in conjunction with the **Cotton Consultants Association** on the **13th of December at 4pm (TBC).** This meeting will be followed by a pizza dinner. Please direct any inquires to Jo Begbie (CGA) 0428 311 079 or Pat McGuinness.(CCA) 0429 875 815

Upcoming Local Events continued



- A Monsanto Roundup Ready Flex® day will be held at Fraser's property on **Monday the 11th of December.** Please direct any inquiry to Nicole Griffiths – 0427 627 727



Enrol Now!

**Cotton CRC's Cotton Production Course
University of New England (UNE).**

**Admissions close 30th November 06
for first semester 2007.**

(however, late admissions can be considered so give John a call)

Contact Dr. John Stanley:
mob: 0428 223 332, UNE phone: 02 6773 3758.

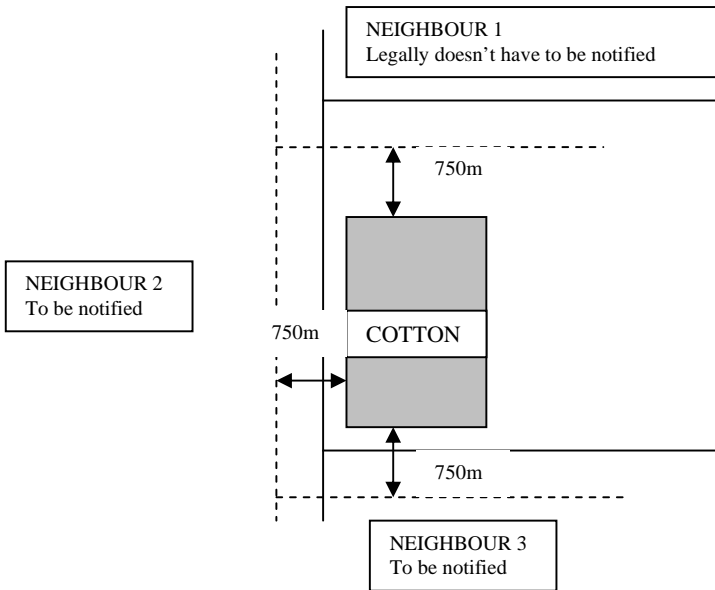
The Cotton CRC's Cotton Production Course is made up of four university level units in cotton production. Everyone receives a comprehensive manual (one for each unit) put together by experienced members of the Cotton CRC. Students can study at undergraduate level (working towards a Diploma of Agriculture, UNE) or at the postgraduate level (as a Postgraduate Certificate in Rural Science, UNE).

WHO does the course? Cotton consultants, trainee agronomists, farm managers, personnel in cotton service industries and recent, or soon to be, graduates of agriculture. They complete the units (one per semester) while they continue with their employment. The course is designed to accommodate busy periods on-farm with very highly regarded residential schools (one in each unit) located in cotton growing areas in the off-season. Units are:

- 1) COTTON PRODUCTION: including topics; cotton soils, cotton plant growth, cotton nutrition, introductory cotton product (marketing and classing) etc.
- 2) COTTON PROTECTION: inc. topics on the management of weeds, pests and diseases.
- 3) COTTON and the ENVIRONMENT: inc. Best Management Practice (BMP), climate change, biodiversity, and various environmental studies that link to cotton farming.
- 4) COTTON FARMING SYSTEMS: inc. Cotton farming case studies, communications skills in print, media and public, cotton spinning and fibre technology, and cotton benchmarking.

For further information contact Dr. John Stanley 0428 223 332 or 02 6773 3758.

NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION & BUFFER ZONES

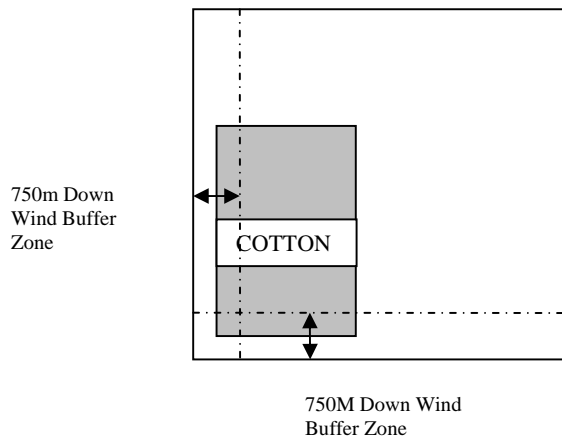


NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION ZONES

Legal Requirements for using Endosulfan

- 750m Aerial application
- 200m Ground application
- Unless have a Waiver

However, it is best practice to notify boundary to boundary neighbours



BUFFER ZONES

- Down Wind No Spray Zones

Legal Requirements for Using Endosulfan

- 750m Aerial Application
- 200m Ground Application
- Unless have Waiver

Legal Requirements for Using Steward

- 600m Aerial
- 200m Ground
- Unless have Waiver

PLEASE NOTE: No chemical is to cross property boundaries.

REFER TO THE PRODUCT LABEL AT ALL TIMES