



**Information** when you need it



# the gwydir grower

6<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Crop/Bug Check (week ending 4<sup>th</sup> January) – Moree

## Crop Stage

- Range between 6 – 21 nodes, majority 14 nodes
- 11-19 nodes, Just started flowering.
- 16-20 nodes, 9-10 NAWF
- Retention as high as 90%
- 4-20 nodes, 6-8 NAWF
- Very high fruit loads on all crops
- Late October dryland now flowering, 9 NAWF, 98% retention
- Most dryland just beginning to square, 7-9 NAWF, high retentions

## Insects/Beneficial's

- Mirid numbers remain low but building, beneficials building, up to 5/m
- Low heliothis eggs 2-3/m, good numbers of beneficials, lady beetles and spiders
- Mirids active
- Cotton Flea Beetle hotspots in dryland cotton
- Mirids still low 0.1/m
- Still crops with no sprays to date, only half our crops have needed a spray for Mirids
- Heliothis eggs 2/m
- Excellent numbers of Red and Blue Beetles, Ladybird Beetles and spiders
- First SLW (Silverleaf Whitefly) starting to be seen

## Weeds

- Weeds are in check, some grass sprays in dryland
- Some scattered areas of small broadleaf weeds
- Patches of Barnyard Grass have come through roundup ready herbicides
- Some dryland still struggling to grow through flame herbicide

## Disease

- No disease at this stage apart from moisture stress in the dryland fields
- Vert starting to become a problem

## Other

- Retentions are increasing, whole fruit into the 80's and top 5 into the 90's. Starting to fruit well
- Late plant struggling for water
- Early planted dryland will need rain in 10 days

## Crop/Bug Check (week ending 4<sup>th</sup> January) - Mungindi

### Crop Stage

- Irrigated crops range from 16-22 nodes & 7-8 NAWF, late crops 9-10 nodes
- Dryland is 6-20 nodes

### Insects/Beneficial's

- Mirids still reasonably quiet though have started to increase this week with expectations of applying 1st insecticide (Transform) in the next 10-14 days.
- Beneficials at low numbers.
- Mirids increasing slightly but still below threshold
- Mites low levels of both Red Legged & Two-Spotted but Thrips are keeping population very low
- Massive Heliothis egg lay in most areas
- Beneficials slowly starting to increase & seeing more Red/Blue beetles, lacewings & ladybirds rather than just small spiders

### Weeds

- Weeds not an issue as residuals have worked well
- Small weeds germinations following first irrigation

### Disease

- No disease at this stage apart from moisture stress in the dryland fields

### Other

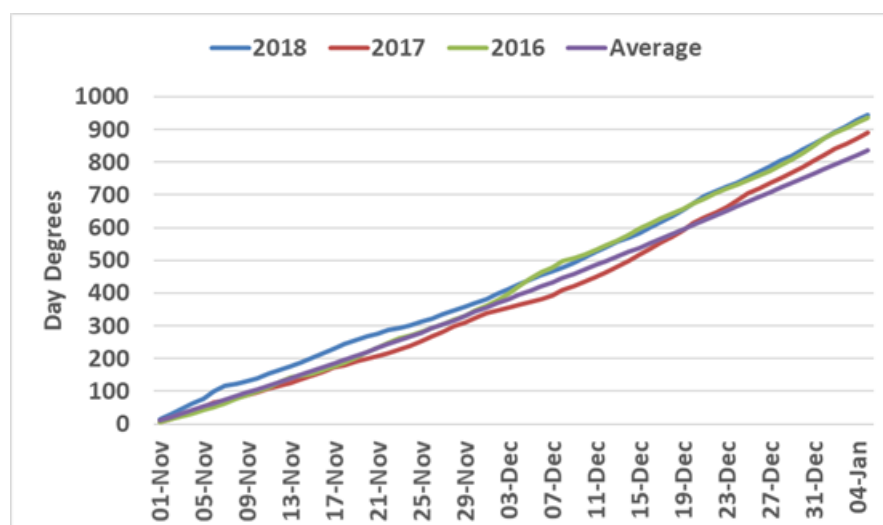
- Most fields have had 2 drift hits so far
- Irrigation looks good, fruit retentions remain very high.
- Dryland still hanging in well but looking forward to rain hopefully soon

**Please note, that all agronomic decisions should be based around your crop and the pests found in it. This is a summary of responses from 7 consultants based in the Gwydir/Mungindi districts.**

## Day Degrees - Moree

Accumulated day degrees from planting date of 1 November until 4<sup>th</sup> January - Moree

- From 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – 945
- 2017 – 891
- 2016 – 937
- Long Term Average – 837

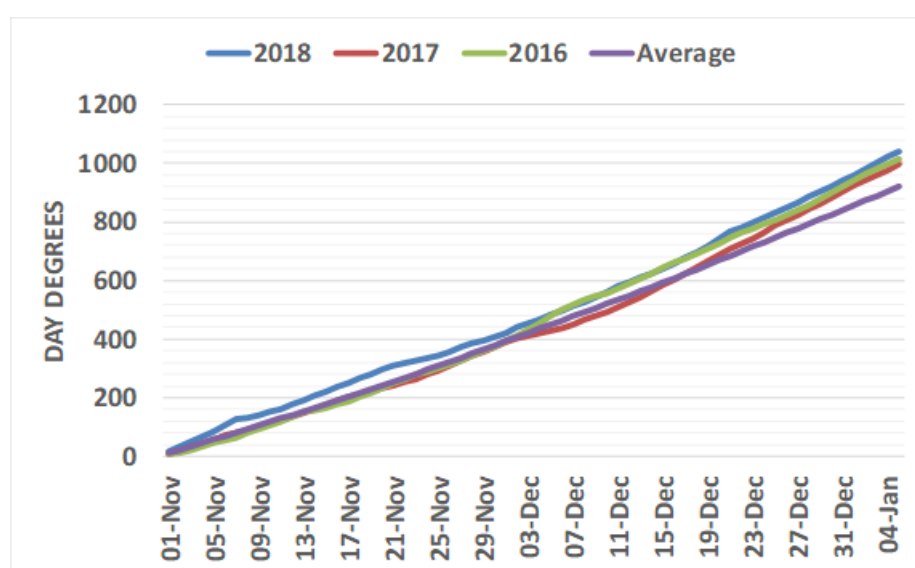


Date	2018	2017	2016	Average
Hot Days	19	19	21	10.7
Cold Shock	2	3	8	4.4

## Day Degrees - Mungindi

Accumulated day degrees from planting date of 1 November until 5<sup>th</sup> January - Mungindi

- From 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – 1041
- 2017 – 999
- 2016 – 1016
- Long Term Average – 920



Date	2018	2017	2016	Average
Hot Days	29	28	32	20.8
Cold Shock	1	2	6	2.9

## AWM (Area Wide Management) Meetings – what are they all about

The Gwydir CGA and CottonInfo jointly run informal grower meetings during the cotton season. After a difficult season in 2016/17 where growers were faced with very high pest pressures and significantly high populations of SLW, there was a push from consultants to find some answers and AWM groups were re-invigorated.

We have 2 groups in the Gwydir, Gwydir West, held at Mallowa and Gwydir North East, held at Ashley.

The meeting runs for an hour, cool drinks are provided and everyone has an opportunity to share what's happening on their farm and raise any issues they are currently facing.

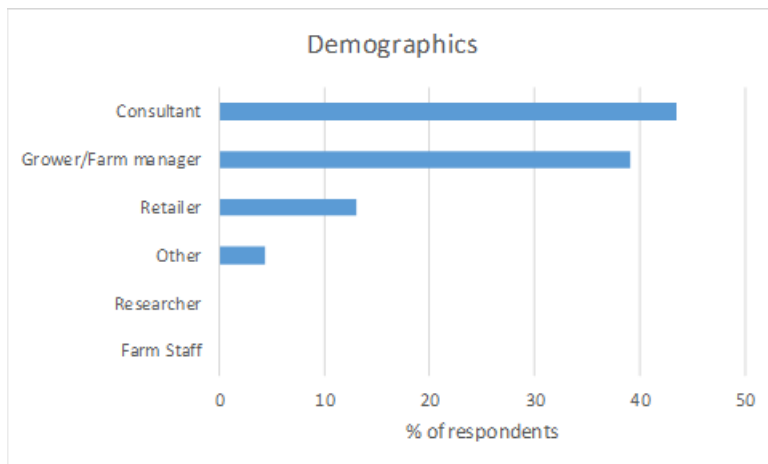
If there is an issue of concern we can invite along the research scientist that works in that area, or consultants/growers from other valleys that have faced a similar issues.

AWM groups provides an opportunity to share experiences, knowledge and management practices between those attending.

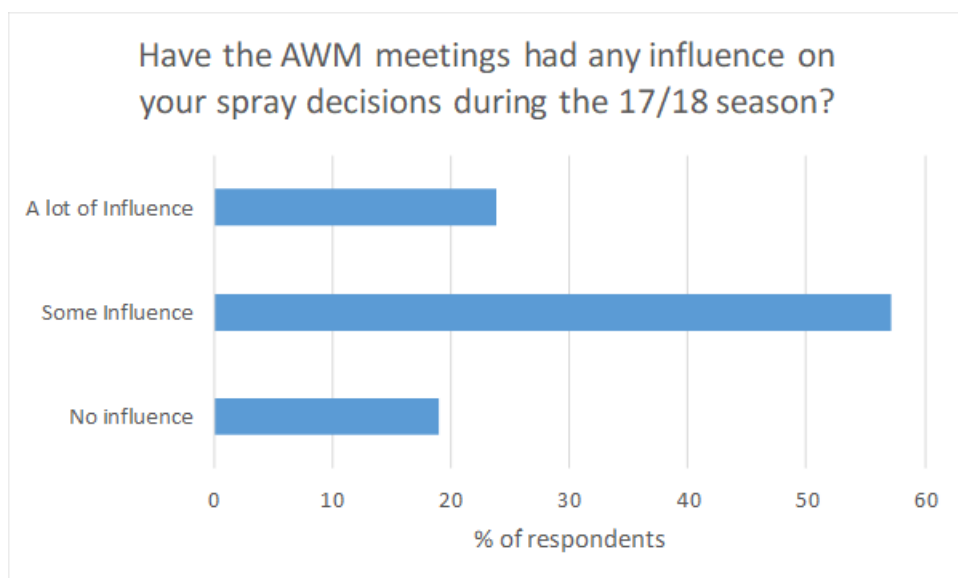
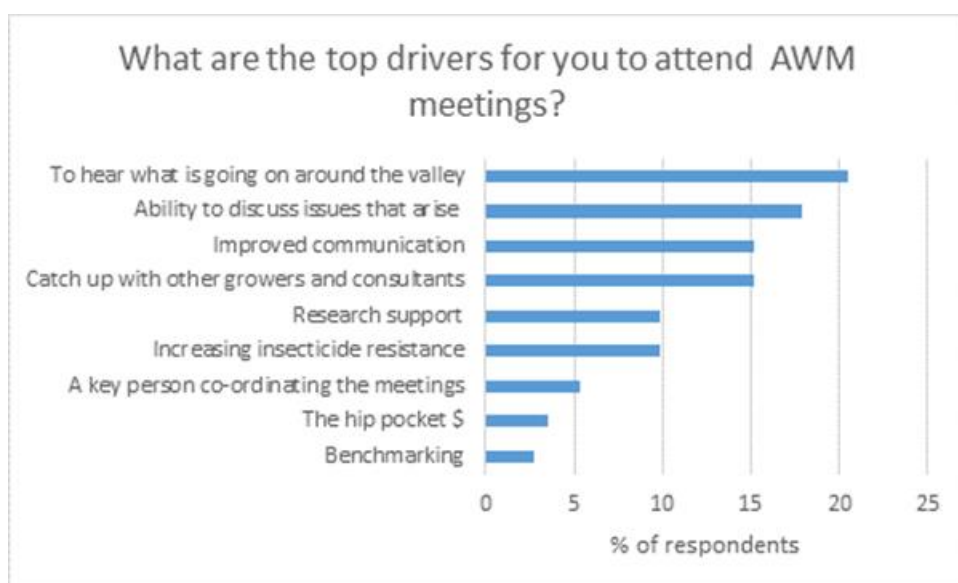
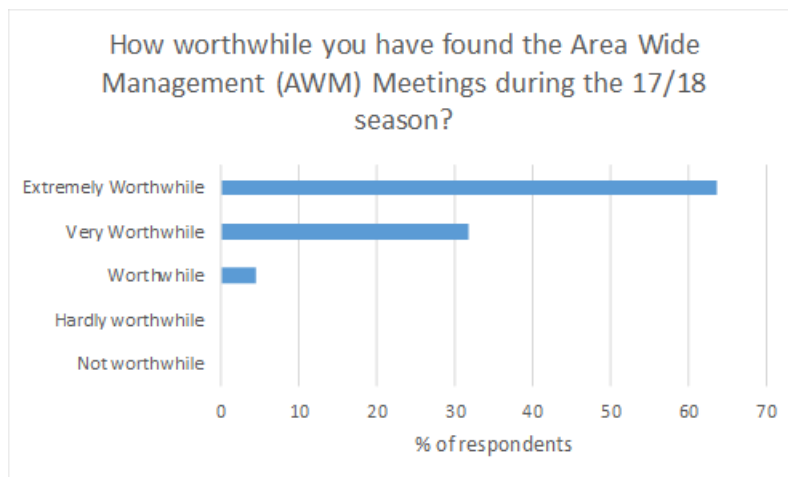
All cotton industry people are welcome to attend the AWM. We general have a mix of growers, farm staff, consultants, chemical reps and ginners. Everyone welcome.



Below are the results of a survey carried out at the end of last year to see what people thought about the Gwydir AWM meetings:



- We would love to see more Growers at these meetings



**If the AWM had some influence, what have you changed?**

- We used Admiral earlier and had great results



- Had a soft insecticide program for most of the season
- Not much different but a better understanding of the need to react early
- Gave a better indication of what was happening to the wider population of insects so gave confidence in decisions to apply or not apply depending on perceived trends
- Admiral application mindful about window, softer approach to other insects
- Hold off on Admiral until window, Use soft targeted chemicals in line with area management
- Timing of insecticide for whitefly, soft options for mirids, recheck marginal calls
- Product selection and threshold
- Trying to go softer earlier

**What was the best thing (other than the beer at Telleraga) about attending the AWM meetings?**

- At the white fly meeting hearing from consultants from other areas and coming up with a useful strategy from their experiences
- Informative Speakers
- The meetings provide an opportunity to gauge what's going on in the valley/area, particularly with regards to SLW management + other insect problems. Plus all aspects of cotton agronomy/management.
- Listening first hand to what other growers and consultants are doing
- Getting to feel what was going on around the area
- Finding out about the range of issues happening in the district
- Sharing relevant information you may not have heard
- Catching up with other growers
- Hearing how everyone else growers and consultant are faring during season
- Find out what others are doing
- What others in region are spraying
- Good to be aware what others doing and how tracking with crop
- Discuss with other growers, open channel of communication
- Information from all areas of production, varieties, results and regions
- The second beer
- Great to keep focus on IPM, share ideas
- Bringing everyone together for a common cause, no one was isolated
- Consultant and grower comments on whats happening and issues
- Update on what others are seeing in district, guest speakers
- Hearing from researchers and consultants from other areas
- Talking to the people at the meetings

**Come along THIS WEEK and see for yourself if AWM can be useful for you too.**

- **Gwydir West AWM**
  - Date: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019
  - Time: 4:00pm
  - Location: **Mallawa Racecourse, Mallawa.**
  - Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/3JQ1Q7z14vH2>
  - Refreshments sponsored by Bayer (Tom Luff, Regional Business Manager)
- **Gwydir North East AWM**
  - Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

- Time: **4:00pm**
- Location: Auscott Midkin Office
- Refreshments sponsored by AgNova Technologies Pty Ltd (Pieter Kwint, Area Manager)

## **Janelle Montgomery**

Regional Extension Officer | Gwydir, Mungindi | CottonInfo

**M** 0428 640 990 | **E** [janelle.montgomery@cottoninfo.net.au](mailto:janelle.montgomery@cottoninfo.net.au) | **W** [www.cottoninfo.com.au](http://www.cottoninfo.com.au)



NOTICE: This email and any attachments are confidential to Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorised to use or disclose this email or the attachments or any information in them; please tell the sender immediately by return email that you have received the email in error, and delete the email and its attachments from your computer.

**To Unsubscribe** to the Gwydir & Mungindi Grower, please email [janelle.montgomery@cottoninfo.net.au](mailto:janelle.montgomery@cottoninfo.net.au)