



Information when you need it



the gwydir grower

26 February 2018

Bug Check -MOREE

- Admiral window closed on 20th February 2018.
- Not a lot of change in the last week.
- SLW Adults – No change, still active but populations are low in most irrigated crops. SLW mostly disappearing from dryland crops.
- SLW Nymph – Some reports of slow build up, but also seeing up to 50% of nymphs parasitised.
- Mirids numbers low, generally not an issue. Couple of reports that some fields have required a mirid spray in last week.
- Other pests pretty quiet, low mites, still heaps of thrips. One report of mite hotspots, but not treating yet due to high thrip numbers.
- Beneficial numbers ok, starting to decline.
- Defoliation has started on dryland crops

Bug Check -Mungindi

- Admiral window closes on 28 February 2018.
- Mirids lower and no longer an issue.
- SLW adults and nymphs low, still some fields have not received an admiral spray.
- Some fields may need a spray (eg Pegasus) prior to defoliation.
- Early cotton has had last irrigation, later crops 1 or 2 to go.
- First fields have just been defoliated.
- Crops finishing off well.
- Honey dew has been very light, recent rain has washed it off the leaves.

SLW Control strategies when you're getting close to defoliation

Entomologist's Simone Heimoana, CSIRO and Richard Sequeira, QDAF have provided some strategies given we are 2-3 weeks away from defoliating some crops. You might be facing similar scenarios.

I applied an IGR 14 days ago and I still seem to have high numbers of SLW so should I apply a knockdown now, given I am at least 14 days from 1st defoliation?

Simone and Richard both concur that an IGR will work in most circumstances but may not be evident in the adult populations for at least 3-4 weeks, in fact populations have been known to increase before crashing and cooler weather will help as it slows down the life cycle. It may be just a case of 'holding your nerve'. Consider stapling some clean plastic sheets to lower and middle leaves and check after 24 hrs to ascertain how much honeydew is being distributed to get a better idea on whether it is getting worse. It is also important to remember the IGR works well in part because the beneficial insects help to control the SLW and so 'soft' early season management is vital. If the cost of an IGR is an issue and the strategy is to rely on a knockdown bear in mind that one use of a Bifenthrin for example will leave around 50% survivors, another spray will leave 75% and so you will see little impact after 2 or 3 sprays. A better knockdown option like Pegasus® will also see challenges in control as it is predominantly a contact spray and coverage is difficult with a thick crop. It also requires sunlight to activate which means that it will not work well in cloudy or drizzly weather and so expect a high number of survivors with high populations.

I was going to defoliate in about 10 days however I do seem to have SLW present in reasonable number's and some sooty mould appearing, what advice could you provide?

Dense cotton appears to be the enemy in getting good coverage with a knockdown chemical and so early defoliation is a good option. **Research suggests defoliation at 50% open will not affect yield or quality but ensure to cut bolls when checking maturity and ensure this assessment is done well and consistently through the field as defoliating too early will compromise quality and could bring discounts.** A knockdown may be required but refer to the SLW factsheet for threshold numbers and options. Sooty mould appears due to Fungi breaking down the honey dew sugars and if >20mm of rainfall has fallen then 80% of the sugars have been washed off and so there may be little that can be done about the sooty mould.

Further information on SLW, refer to pages 27-30 in the Cotton Pest Management Guide <https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/publications/cotton-pest-management-guide>

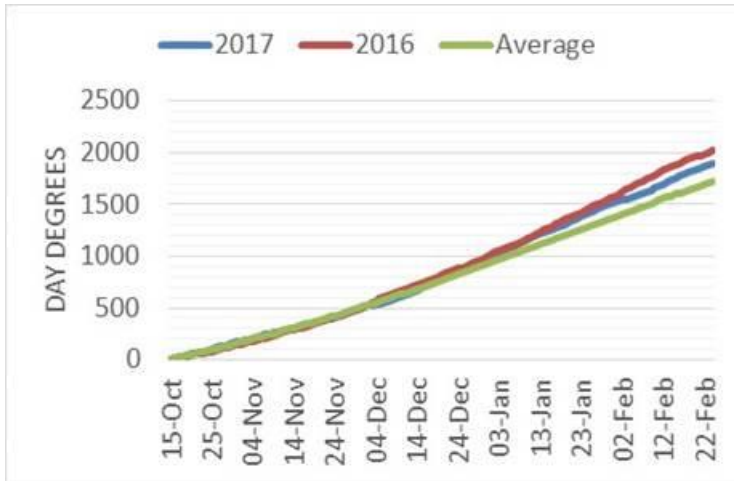
Make sure you look at the table on Page 29 which summarises recommended action depending on time to defoliation, contamination level and adult population growth rate. **Any decision to bring defoliation forward must be made carefully, assessment of the maturity is critical.**

Obviously there could be a number of scenarios faced in the field. If someone has a particular scenario they are concerned about, an option is to get in contact with one of the researchers (Dr Richard Sequeira E. Richard.Sequeira@daf.qld.gov.au or Simone Heimoana E. Simone.Heimoana@csiro.au).

Day Degrees - Moree

Accumulated day degrees from planting date of 15 October until 24 February - Moree

- From 15th Oct – 1898
- 2016 – 2020
- Long Term Average – 1725

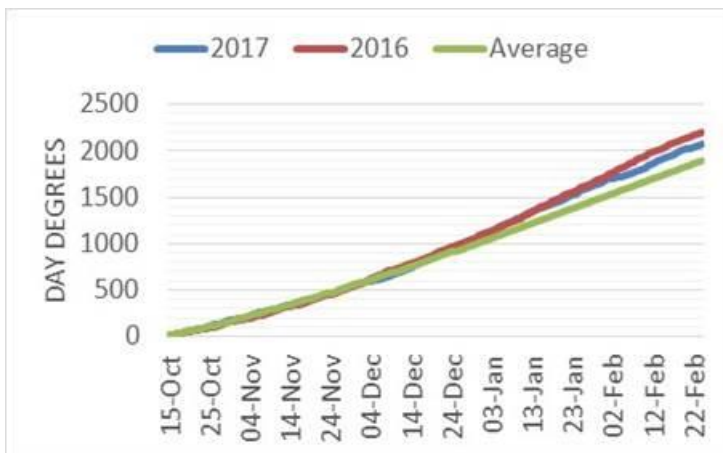


Date	2017	2016	Average
Hot Days	49	60	22.8
Cold Shock	5	16	9.6

Day Degrees - Mungindi

Accumulated day degrees from planting date of 15 October until 24 February - Mungindi

- From 15th Oct – 2075
- 2016 – 2198
- Long Term Average – 1886



Date	2017	2016	Average
Hot Days	63	78	43
Cold Shock	3	13	7.3

Gwydir Valley CGA Field Walk – this Tuesday afternoon, all welcome

Peter Glennie and the team at Norwood have been involved with cotton research for over 40 years, with their first crop sown in 1976. This season they have 7 research trials being conducted on-farm and these will be showcased on the field walk including:

- Warwick Stiller, CSIRO - Plant Breeding experiments (conducted on Norwood for 38 years). Evaluating the yield and fibre quality of new conventional germplasm and new pre-

commercial Bollgard 3/RRF varieties. Increasing the level of the resistance to Verticillium Wilt in CSIRO cotton varieties.

- Warren Conaty, CSIRO - Evaluating new sources of heat tolerance in cotton.
- Graeme Schwenke, Jon Baird, NSW DPI – Optimising Anhydrous Ammonia application in a cotton system through nitrification stabilisers.
- University of Melbourne - A Case Study of N loss via ammonia volatilisation during water-run N application.
- Guna Nachimuthu NSW DPI, Long-term P decline and annual P export from cotton farms .
- Janelle Montgomery – Irrigation performance evaluation and interaction with N.
- Robert Mensah - The “Zappa” Trap a potential monitoring tool for insects in cotton and other crops.
- Alice Devlin – CSD Ambassador site and variety trials (Beela).

Norwood field day during 95/96 season.....Recognise anyone??



The bus leaves GVIA Office 100 Balo St at 1:30pm sharp to travel to Norwood and back to town via Beela.

The Gwydir Valley Cotton Growers Association AGM will follow at GVIA Office at 5:30pm

Please RSVP to gwydircotton@gwydircotton.com.au

Cotton Industry Awards

- The 2018 Australian Cotton Industry Awards Nominations have now open.
- Nomination Flyer attached.
- Nominations close on the Friday 30th March and can be completed online at www.australiancottonawards.com

WAG's – Women In Agriculture

Women in Agriculture (WAGS) is a group where women are able to upskill in all aspects of Agriculture. Opportunity to meet other ladies involved in agriculture, learn new skills and enjoy some good company. Kate Pearce from NW Local Land Services coordinates this group and the next meeting is in North Star. Kate said that for this meeting they have decided to move away from production and cover the human and financial cost of drought. "Kate Schwager has agreed to come along to speak to the group on a topic that we think will hit close to home for all of us, given the ongoing seasonal conditions and challenges facing our businesses and families".

Date: Thursday 1st March

Time: 10:30 am

Location: North Star Sporting Club

All welcome, including the kids.

Please RSVP to Kate Pearce E. kate.pearce@lls.nsw.gov.au M. 0429 900 329

Dates for Diary

Gwydir Valley CGA Field Walk

- Location: Norwood, Moree
- Date: Thursday 27th February 2018
- Time: Bus leaves GVIA Office 100 Balo St at 1:30pm sharp.
- Followed by Gwydir Valley CGA at 5:30pm
- Please RSVP to gwydircotton@gwydircotton.com.au

Gwydir Valley CGA AGM - All growers and associates are welcome

- Location: GVIA Office 100 Balo St, Moree
- Date: Thursday 27th February 2018
- Time: 5:30pm, following GV CGA field walk
- Please RSVP to gwydircotton@gwydircotton.com.au

WAG's Meeting

- Location: North Star Sporting Club
- Date: Thursday 1st March 2018
- Time: 10:30am start
- Please RSVP to Kate Pearce, Mixed Farming Officer, North West Local Land Services M. 0429 900 329 E. kate.pearce@lls.nsw.gov.au

Janelle Montgomery

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