



Information when you need it



the gwydir grower

30 April 2020

Crop Check - Moree

CROP STAGE –

- Crops are finishing slowly
- Defoliation: Later crops and some double skip still to get their first application. Most crops have had 2 passes, but hormone damage causing some angst, expecting 3 or more passes to get the leaf off
- I know of one crop picked in the valley, but most won't get the pickers in for a couple of weeks and all hope to be finished by end June
- Is some double skip and semi irrigated cotton that probably won't get picked until late June

INSECTS/BENEFICIALS -

- Large spiders and cotton strainers
- Insect pressure has been relatively low all season

WEEDS -

- Odd noogoora burr and sesbania in irrigated fields
- Feathertop Rhodes grass common on fallows (See CottonInfo FactSheet: [FTRG](#))

DISEASE -

- Vert is rampant in some fields. (Verticillium wilt in cotton <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgiatA52nNw>)
- Also seeing senescence and Sclerotinia (Sclerotinia in cotton https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt_542Kj3_0)
- Boll rots common

What the consultants are saying:

"Crops finishing slowly, only 25% of my crops have had their 1st hit (defoliation)".

"Defoliation is going slowly, expect to do 3 passes (hopefully no more) with picking starting in 2-3 weeks and hope to be finished by end of June".

"Defoliation to start next week, anticipate 3+ passes. Seen plenty of 2,4-D drift. Won't be picking until June".

"All of my cotton has had 2 passes, but with hormone damage, leaf is frozen on top and will definitely need another pass, hope to start picking mid may".

With defoliation well underway CottonInfo has produced a Defoliation Preparation 2-page document that is a great summary of **best practice for defoliation**. Please share this document with your clients, applicators and contractors. The full document is available on the CottonInfo Website [here](#).

Day Degrees 1st Nov 2019 – 25th April 2020

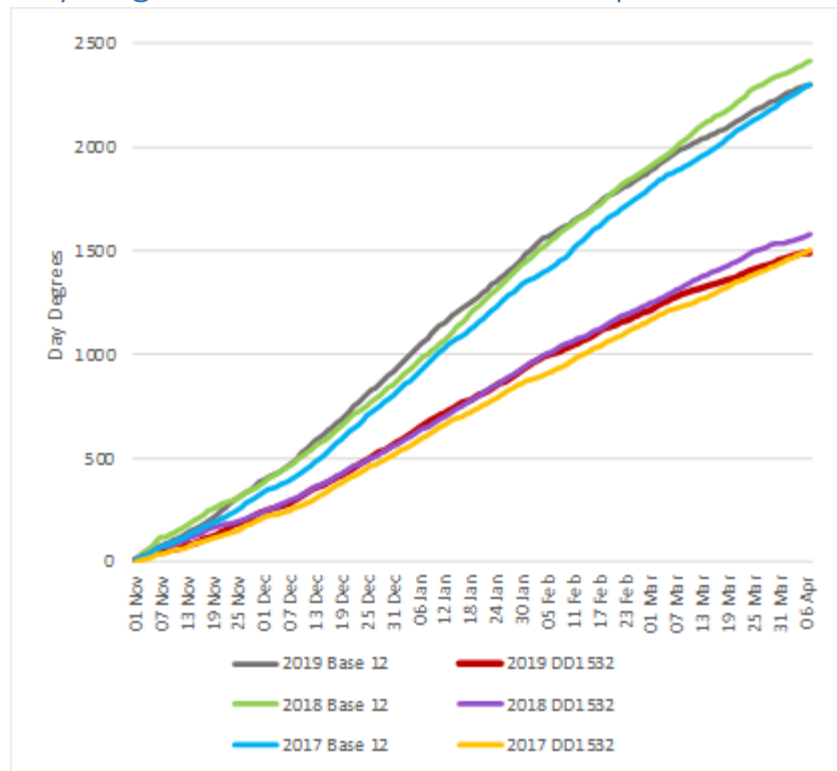


Figure 1: Accumulated Day Degrees 2019 DD 1532, 2018 DD 1532, 2017 DD 1532 compared to Base12

Source: <https://www.csd.net.au/ddc>

Table 1: Day Degrees seasonal comparison 1/11/19 – 25/04/2020

	2019	2018	2017	10 year mean
Base 12	2442.4	2603.6	2489.3	2390.2
DD1532	1556.5	1700.6	1621.6	1560.5
Cold shock days	15	4	3	8
Days above 36°C	59	65	54	41.4
Nights above 25°C	21	12	9	9
Days above 40°C	14	12	11	8.6
Average temperature (°C)	25.8	26.8	26.1	25.5

Source: <https://www.csd.net.au/ddc>

CSD Ambassador Update:



End of Season and segmented picking is underway in the CSD Ambassador fields and Variety Trials. With crops 4 to 5 weeks later than normal, we're still waiting on top bolls to open before this will be complete. The first Variety Trial (at Red Mill) should be picked on Monday the 4th, which we're all eagerly awaiting to see the results of the experimental variety CSX3006B3F. The earlier maturing characteristic of this variety has been evident at the end of the season, as shown in the photo below.

Verticillium wilt population and V-rank trials are also being stem cut and assessed in the Gwydir and Namoi – we should hopefully see some useful results given the incidence of the disease this season.



Ever wondered how the segment pick is done and what information you can get from it? Read Alice's blog: <https://www.csd.net.au/blogs/20-segmented-picking--how-is-it-done-and-what-does-it-tell-us>

Thanks Alice

Alice Curkpatrick has decided to move on after 7 years with CSD. Working as our Gwydir CSD E&D Agronomist for the last 3 years and 4 years prior as CottonInfo Regional Extension Officer, Alice has made an important contribution to the Gwydir Cotton Industry. THANKS ALICE! She told me it's been a difficult decision, as she has really enjoyed working for CSD, and with a great group of colleagues in the CSD Extension team (I can vouch for that!). We will miss Alice a lot. On behalf of our Gwydir Cotton industry, we wish Alice the best of luck in the next stage of her career.

So, this means CSD are now advertising Alice's job: Extension and Development Agronomist – Gwydir Valley. You can find out more about it on the CSD Website <https://www.csd.net.au/careers/4>

Have your say - Cotton Research Priority Survey 2020

Cotton Australia would like to give you an opportunity to identify research priorities for investment over the course of the new Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) strategic plan (2018-2023).

To assist in providing this advice, Cotton Australia and CRDC have designed a simple survey for all members of the cotton industry to complete.

This survey is an important step in ensuring all members of the cotton industry have an opportunity to provide input on priorities for industry investment through CRDC in the areas of research, development and extension.

It should only take approximately **5 - 10 minutes to complete**.

Cotton Australia will report the full survey results to CRDC and will provide valuable feedback to CRDC on investment priorities. Results will also be communicated back to industry via the CGAs and Member Organisations (such as CottonInfo).

To start your thinking process, in 2019 the survey showed the following issues were priorities across all growing regions (*in no particular order*):

increasing disease prevalence, water availability/improved water use efficiency, social licence, traceability, soil constraints/soil health, climate change, sustainability, nutrition, energy costs, labour availability, spray drift, pests – SLW and mealybug, biosecurity, weed and pest resistance, access to digital technology and cover cropping.

To complete the survey click on the following link:

<https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5564205/2020-R-D-Priority-Survey>

The figure below shows the key roles of industry organisations. CRDC no longer invests in plant breeding or varieties. This is done through Cotton Breeding Australia. Please keep this in mind when thinking about research priorities for CRDC.



: a joint extension program between CRDC, Cotton Australia & CSD to extend outcomes of R&D.

A note from Annabelle Guest, MDBA Regional Engagement Officer, Namoi and Gwydir Regions

Please find attached a brochure about the past monitoring evaluation and research project that has been happening in the Gwydir wetlands, along with the plans for the next three years. This work will help demonstrate the value of the environmental water that has been delivered to the wetlands over the last few years and provides a snapshot of the health of species in the area.

TRAINING – GROW, THRIVE and WHS & HR Fundamentals

Please find attached flyers for three of the courses Tocal College are offering under Agskilled, specifically designed for those in the Cotton and Grains industry.

GROW – a women's leadership course covering Personal Effectiveness (time management, communication, difficult conversations etc), WHS & HR. This course is designed for women in business ownership and management roles with 5 years experience in business. 100% of the women who have previously completed GROW suggested they would make significant changes in their lives

and business as a result of the course. This program has been a marked success with over 200 women having completed it. Join the GROW Alumni when you are complete!

THRIVE – a personal effectiveness program for men and women covering time management, organisation, networking, communication, dealing with conflict. A great course for those wanting to develop and hone leadership skills to better manage themselves and others.

WHS&HR Fundamentals – the newest of Tocal's offering under the AgSkilled program. This course provides business owners and managers resources, tools, templates and knowledge to improve WHS & HR in their business. Co-delivered with NSW Farmers, it covers WHS, Legally obligations when employing people and the "human side" of managing your team.

While GROW is designed for women , Thrive and WHS&HR Fundamentals are for everyone!!

The AgSkilled program officially ends in June so this is the very last opportunity to sign up for one of these great courses. You MUST register before 30th May.

Please contact Bec Fing on housepaddock@bigpond.com for GROW and WHS/HR or Heidi Smith thrive@tocal.com for THRIVE to register interest. The courses will officially start in June but registration must be received by 30th May.

I encourage you to make the most of AgSkilled while the funding is available to the cotton and grains industry thanks to this great initiative of Cotton Australia and GRDC.

Other AgSkilled training opportunities

Please see attached a document outlining the full range of AgSkilled training on offer. You can click the links for more information.

Training Includes:

- Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment (HVCBA). Licencing skillsets for HR, HC and MC
- Forklift
- Confined spaces & Working from heights

And many more! Check out the attached brochure. Take advantage while funding is available through AgSkilled.

Janelle Montgomery

Regional Extension Officer | Gwydir, Mungindi | CottonInfo

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