



the gwydir grower

27 October 2017

Season Summary

Planting began in late September with warm conditions and temperatures in the mid 30's. A change in the weather pattern since the start of October has brought several falls of rain and local storms across the Gwydir.

October rainfall totals for the CSD and other Gwydir weather stations:

Weather Station	
CSD	Oct Totals (mm)
"Alice Downs", Moree	115.4
"Avondale", Rowena	48
"Cudgildool", Moree	73.4
"Mobinbry", North Star	119.6
"Norwood", Moree	55
Oz Forecast	
Moree Aero	86.6
"Currawee", Ashley	95
"Jymoomah", Gurley	98.6
"Keytah", Moree	97.4
"Koreen", Gurley	68.6
"Noblew:", Garah	108.6
"Terriadi", Weemelah	92.2
"Balarang" West, Weemelah	47.6
"Wyadrigah", Mungindi	65.8

The CSD Field Weather Network <http://www.csd.net.au/cfws>

The OzForecast weather stations are available at <http://ozforecast.com.au> and a rainfall summary for all stations located in the Gwydir region is available [HERE](#).

The rain has held up planting, however planting has recommenced this week. The rain would have helped to consolidate beds, very few reports of replants at this stage. The Gwydir this year is again planting mainly Sicot 746B3F, with an increase in the area to Sicot 748B3F and smaller quantities of 714B3F and Sicot 754B3F also being grown. The area to be planted in irrigated should be close to 45,000 Ha. East of Moree, recent rains have joined up the moisture in profiles that had plenty of fallow moisture. West still needs some more rain before any significant dryland planting would take place.

In Mungindi most fallow fields were planted before the rain, however back to back fields that were pre-irrigated have been too wet to get onto since the rain. Planting will start again this week.

G VIA Update

Zara Lowien from Gwydir Valley Irrigators Associations (GVIA) has commented on the following: October has seen no increase in Gwydir General Security allocation, remaining at 11.59%. This years allocation in addition to the account carry over sees around 247,000ML available for General Security licence holders in the 2017-18 water year so far. There is around 180,000ML available for the environment. Copeton Dam is currently at 52% (716,000 ML), increasing by around 20,000ML since the start of October. With the recent rains, Water NSW announced a targeted supplementary flow events back on the 13th October and another on the 16th October (refer [HERE](#)). The latest Water Allocation Statement for the Gwydir Valley is available [HERE](#) You can subscribe to the WaterNSW water availability report [HERE](#).

Mungindi Water Users Update

NSW Border Rivers regulated water source General Security (B class) remains at 11.1% and General Security A Class at 100%. This years allocation sees around 250,000 ML available for General Security licence holders in the 2017-18 water year so far. Pindari Dam is currently 100% full (312,000 ML) and Glenlyon Dam is 74% (189,000ML). This information is available on the WaterNSW website <http://www.waternsw.com.au>. Under continuous accounting in the Qld Border Rivers, at this time there has been no new dam allocation. More recently there has been access to a small supplementary flow for both Qld and NSW irrigators on the Border Rivers around Mungindi.

Establishment and Disease Assessment

Each season a sample of fields in each cotton region are included in the industry wide disease survey. It is conducted by QDAF & NSW DPI staff and CottonInfo REOs. This survey aims to cover about 5 % of the area for both early season (3 to 4 weeks after sowing) and late season (after last irrigation).

Now is a good time to check out your own crops with a simple dig and see approach. Assess establishment in 10 representative areas of a field. Count the number of established plants in 50 cm. Dig away the side of the hill/bed near the plant line and look for reasons why seeds did not establish. It could be caused by a range of factors such as compaction, wireworms, seed rot, crusting, seedling disease. A checklist to help record what you find is attached.

Cotton Check

One way to record what has gone on through the season is to keep a paper based record of a field. This service will be provided by your consultant in various electronic reports but for some growers it might be handy to have your own record on hand. See attached Cotton Check and keep a copy in the glovebox. Thanks to Kieran O’Keeffe, REO Sth NSW for providing the Cotton Check.

Area Wide Management Groups in the Gwydir

- 1) Gwydir West AWM - centred around Mallowa, Ed Seccombe , Telleraga will host group.
- 2) Gwydir North East – centred around Ashley, but capturing growers from Weemelah, Garah, Ashley and Pally districts. Rod Gordon/Jake Cutcliffe, Auscott, Midkin will host this group
- 3) Dryland Cotton group – capturing dryland growers North Moree through to Bellata. Monthly meetings (or when initiated due to a particular issue), Wednesday afternoon 4:30 pm, Telleraga Woolshed and Thursday morning, 7:30am, Auscott, Midkin Office during 2nd week of each month.

NEXT AWM Meetings:

Gwydir West AWM

Date: Wednesday 8th November 2017

Time: 4:30pm

Location: Telleraga Woolshed

Gwydir North East AWM

Date: Thursday 9th November 2017

Time: 7:30am

Location: Auscott, Midkin, Office.

Why AWM? Mary Whitehouse, CSIRO, summed it up at the recent Cotton Research

Conference - For the last 15 years we’ve been in the “Golden Era” for pest management with Bollgard cotton and decreased insecticide sprays that has led to some complacency about insect pests. We appear to be entering a new phase in pest management as we chase ever higher yields. Many secondary pests are now primary pests, and the chase for high early season retention triggers early season sprays, thereby causing additional pest problems late in the season as these insecticides kill beneficials that work in the crop for free. Australia has held at bay resistance to Bt toxins in *Helicoverpa* since 1996 through our thorough RMP which links in with IPM and AWM. However, resistance to Bt toxins has occurred in other countries to the extent that Bt cotton no longer provides effective control against key pests.

To keep ahead of pests developing resistance to Bt cotton and other key insecticides, we need to remain vigilant, develop new IPM tools and work together. AWM is an important first step to share experiences and information between growers and consultants. We have to be in this together if we are going to successfully manage pests such as SLW and mealybug in our valley. As a group we have successfully managed *Helicoverpa* and other insect pests for the last 20 years by using tactics that benefit everybody. The ultimate aim of IPM and AWM approaches is to secure high profits that are sustainable.

Solenopsis Mealybug - it's on its way, lets minimise the spread

With Solenopsis mealybug widespread throughout Queensland and confirmed in WA, NT and VIC, and mostly recently in the Macintyre valley, growers and consultants are encouraged to remain vigilant in monitoring for this pest. Please let your Regional Extension Officer with CottonInfo know of any detections of mealybug in the Gwydir so we can monitor its spread.

Janelle Montgomery M. 0428 640 990 E. janelle.montgomery@cottoninfo.net.au

For further information go to Blog on the CottonInfo Website

<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/solenopsis-mealybug-spotted-24-february-2017>

Come Clean Kit and Use

I have attached a Come Clean Kit and Use on PDF, this attachment is particularly useful for consultants and goes through what you should have in your vehicle to enable you to manage your biosecurity risks whether you are meeting with an individual grower, working on a trial site or organising a field walk.

The attached document is a must to minimise the spread of mealybugs.

Bio-Cleanse - new wash down product

With the withdrawal of Castrol's Farm Cleanse – there have been a number of growers asking about alternatives to Farm Cleanse. Bio-Cleanse is the new alternative product to Farm Cleanse.

Bio-Cleanse is used in a similar manner as Farm Cleanse:

1. Before using Bio-Cleanse, or any detergent/sanitiser product, it is important to ensure all excess soil, mud and trash from all surfaces of the equipment or vehicle including wheel archers and tyres is removed.
2. This pre-clean can be completed by using a pressure cleaner applying high pressure water to remove as much excess soil, mud and trash, which can be carrying pests, pathogens and weeds seeds, is removed prior to applying the detergent/sanitiser product.
3. Spray Bio-Cleanse at a 10 per cent concentration onto the contaminated surface, leave for at least 5-10 minutes, and then rinse clean with high pressure water.
4. Remember to rinse the wash down floor pad regularly using a pressure cleaner to ensure you eliminate the possibility of transferring pathogen and weed seed carrying mud and trash to production areas when moving equipment and vehicles.

Previous industry studies conducted by DAF have shown that Bio-Cleanse has performed better than Farm Cleanse in comparative studies, with Bio-Cleanse killing 99.8 per cent of spores in the soil compared to Farm Cleanse which killed 87 per cent when used appropriately.

Please contact your agricultural reseller to find out if they stock Bio-Cleanse, or contact Mark Blokkeerus of Queensland Cleaning Solutions to organise distribution on 0401 030 923 or qldcs@bigpond.com.

Further information: Blog post on the CottonInfo website:

<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/come-clean-go-clean-bio-cleanse>

Thanks to Sharna Holman, CottonInfo Tech Lead for Biosecurity and Diseases for providing this information.

Cotton Map

Many fields have already been entered into CottonMap for the Gwydir Valley. For those who are yet to add their field just go to the CottonMap website

<http://www.cottonmap.com.au/>. Instructions on using CottonMap are attached.

Cotton Map is an industry initiative which has been designed to highlight the location of cotton fields. The service aims to minimise off-target damage from downwind pesticide application, particularly during fallow spraying. Farmers, farm managers, resellers, consultants, agronomists, applicators and contractors are encouraged to input their cotton fields. Users can also access the Cotton Map to check the location of the paddocks they may be planning to spray to assess the proximity of the nearest cotton crop.

2017-18 Trials in the Gwydir & Mungindi Region

You can find a list of trials happening this season across the regions on the CottonInfo trial map www.cottoninfo.com.au/farm-trials. A list of trials being conducted in the Gwydir and Mungindi districts is also attached.

During the season, there will be opportunities to look at how they are progressing and learn from this research. This list does not include the many on farm trials that occur each season. If you have trials or demonstrations that would be of interest to others they can be added to the trial map. Send details through to janelle.montgomery@cottoninfo.net.au.

CRDC Strategic plan 2018-2023

CRDC's Strategic Plan is the organisation's key planning document. It is the compass that sets the direction for the organisation's operations and investment in cotton research, development and extension over the next five years, enabling the industry to achieve its long term vision and the Government to achieve its strategic R&D priorities.

CRDC is now developing the next five-year strategic plan - the CRDC Strategic Plan 2018-23 - in consultation with key stakeholders. The Plan is currently in development, and will come into effect in July 2018, following Ministerial approval.

Based on stakeholder input and feedback to date, CRDC has developed a draft 'plan on a page': an overview of the proposed key purpose, goals, focus areas, outcomes and activities for the 2018-23 period.

CRDC are currently in the process of seeking feedback on this draft 'plan on a page' and invite all cotton growers to have their say, via the link below, by Friday 24 November. The feedback that you provide will be considered by CRDC in the formation of the Strategic Plan. You can view the CRDC Strategic Plan here: <http://www.crdc.com.au/strategicplan>

Cotton Industry Gross Margins

Here is a link to the new & updated cotton industry gross margins.

<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/publications/australian-cotton-industry-gross-margin-budgets-2017-18>

On this page you will find a gross margin for 5 growing situations; furrow irrigated (owner operated), furrow irrigated (operations contracted), dryland, semi irrigated and lateral irrigated cotton.

As you know, every cotton crop is grown using slightly different resources. There is always variance between paddocks, farms, growers and regions. With that in mind, these gross margins are designed to give an indication of the costs and margins of growing a cotton crop. They will not reflect any one situation. They will however provide up-to-date costs for many of the possible operations found in the cotton production system and also give an indication of the margins when growing a cotton crop, with the current season in mind.

A gross margin only considers variable costs which are those directly associated with growing the crop. If costs need to be paid regardless of if a crop is planted, they are considered an overhead cost. In our gross margins that means we do not consider any capital costs, depreciation, interest or labour (as we are assuming permanent labour). In the accompanying gross margin notes you will find some numbers on estimated labour costs. A contractor builds many of these overhead costs into their rate, so the 'contractor' GM by default gives consideration to these costs.

These gross margins may be used by farmers as a starting point for their own budgeting. With current costs and a comprehensive list of operations they are a good starting point for those wanting to create their own budgets. Some growers use the budgeting process to make decisions on the best way to allocate resources (land and water). By comparing the likely return by resource, a grower can make an informed decision on how they may tweak the coming seasons cropping rotation.

Thanks to Janine Powell and Jon Welsh of AgEcon for updating the Cotton Industry Gross Margins.

Dates for Diary

- **2,4D Tolerant Cotton information session**
 - **DOW Agrosiences will be attending an EnList information session in Moree. The meeting aims to provide information for members to help the CGA prepare their position for the upcoming Cotton Australia meeting, where the attached paper will be discussed.**
 - Date: Tuesday 7th November 2017
 - Time: 12:30pm (light lunch provided)
 - Location: GVIA Office, 100 Balo Street Moree
 - RSVP via email to gwydircotton@gwydircotton.com.au

- **Gwydir West AWM**
 - Date: Wednesday 8th November 2017
 - Time: 4:30pm
 - Location: Telleraga Woolshed

- **Gwydir North East AWM**
 - Date: Thursday 9th November 2017

- Time: 7:30am
- Location: Auscott, Midkin, Office.
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- **Tour “Keytah” Irrigation Operations – North West Irrigation Australia Regional Committee (NWIAL)**
 - The NWIAL regional committee invite you to tour the Irrigation Operation at Keytah, including a new bankless development.
 - Date: Tuesday 14th November
 - Time: 3pm at Keytah Office or 2:30pm at Moree Gold Club if you wish to car pool.
 - Finish at 5pm, then NWIAL have a short meeting at the Moree Golf Club (members and non-members welcome) followed by dinner.
 - All welcome, no cost (except your dinner)
 - RSVP George Truman (NWIAL Acting Regional Chair) 0427 505 040 or Janelle Montgomery 0428 640 990
 - Flyer attached. Note: Free to both IAL members and Non-members, ALL WELCOME.
- **SAVE THE DATE: CottonInfo Cotton Research Tour - Optimising irrigation and nitrogen**
 - Dates & locations:
 - 2017: Emerald
 - 2018: Murrumbidgee - 6 Feb; Macquarie - 7 Feb; Gwydir - 8 Feb; Namoi - 9 Feb; Goondiwindi - 13 Feb; Darling Downs - 14 Feb.



To see what other events are occurring in the cotton industry check out
<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/calendar/month>

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