



Macquarie bale up

December 2017

SEASON SUMMARY

Please note the Day Degree Accumulation is calculated for the 20th of October planting.

Table of Day Degree Details for Narromine Airport (51115)

Day Degree Accumulations for the period 20 October to 05 January in the years 1957 to 2018.

Note: Hot Days have Max Temp $\geq 36^{\circ}$. Cold Shock Days have Min Temp $\leq 11^{\circ}$ and are shown with *.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Hi 1997	Lo 1999	Average
Hot Days	13.0	16.0	12.0	21.0	16.0	24.0	20.0	1.0	9.4
Cold Shock	14.0	24.0	4.0	8.0	23.0	14.0	9.0	25.0	15.9
05-Jan	913.8	872.0	907.0	1,008.0	901.8	955.5	1,023.0	648.3	828.6

Table of Day Degree Details for Trangie Research Station Aws (51049)

Day Degree Accumulations for the period 20 October to 05 January in the years 1957 to 2018.

Note: Hot Days have Max Temp $\geq 36^{\circ}$. Cold Shock Days have Min Temp $\leq 11^{\circ}$ and are shown with *.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Hi 1997	Lo 1999	Average
Hot Days	13.0	15.0	14.0	22.0	17.0	25.0	23.0	2.0	10.8
Cold Shock	10.0	20.0	4.0	8.0	15.0	10.0	8.0	23.0	15.2
05-Jan	942.9	896.3	937.1	1,042.4	933.7	991.4	1,064.2	676.3	853.4

Table of Day Degree Details for Warren (Mumblebone) (51034)

Day Degree Accumulations for the period 20 October to 05 January in the years 1957 to 2018.

Note: Hot Days have Max Temp $\geq 36^{\circ}$. Cold Shock Days have Min Temp $\leq 11^{\circ}$ and are shown with *.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Hi 1997	Lo 1999	Average
Hot Days	19.0	22.0	18.0	26.0	21.0	28.0	29.0	3.0	14.4
Cold Shock	9.0	20.0	0.0	3.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	18.0	11.0
05-Jan	993.0	961.5	997.8	1,090.3	982.0	1,032.0	1,113.0	717.0	915.0

VALLEY UPDATE

As you can see from the table above most areas are now above average for Day Degree accumulation. We are tracking closer to the 2015/2016 season which is a good thing, we have had half the cold shock days early in the season compared to last season, and this is evident in the plants as they began fruiting much earlier this season. The insect pressure has been very varied, although its not heavy pressure like last season. The storms over the last month have been very patchy, below is the links to the weather stations in the valley to check out the falls in your area.

BUG CHECK REPORT Thanks to Jake Hall @ Auscott for the crop update this month.

GROWTH STAGE : 18-24 NODES

NAWF : 746 6NAWF,748 7-8NAWF

PIX APPLICATIONS – Variable rate applications going on now

RETENTION : Top 5% still >90% everywhere

PESTS :

Mirids increased substantially over last 10 days just starting to get some damage in most crops

Mites present here and there 2-8% at with low level damage thrips managing them at this stage

Helicoverpa Some patchy grub damage

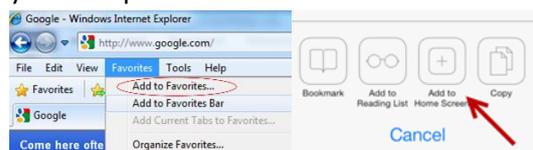
SLW in low numbers in most early crops 2-5%

BENEFICIAL REPORT High numbers of beneficials at this stage – mainly Lacewings, ladybeetles, spiders, R&B beetles, wasps

SRPAY DRIFT WIDESPREAD

In some cases, we have seen some non-target spray drift pretty wide spread across areas of the valley. Some growers have been hit for the fourth consecutive year in a row. As you would all be aware the MCGA teamed up with Discovery Ag and Goanna Telemetry to get some 10 meter inversion towers placed across the valley that can indicate when inversions are present, as well as give farmers info on the delta T and wind conditions. If we can get people using these remotely to see if conditions are suitable before they spray (ie look in the ipad before you get out of bed) it could help reduce the night spraying in inversion conditions. I have attached the document that we have handed out to all the resellers across the valley and encourage you to share it with neighbours.

Here are links to other weather stations in the valley that CSD and MCGA have provided [Mumblebone East](#) [Westwood Narromine](#) [Mt Foster Warren](#) ["Farrendale" Narromine](#) . The Mount Foster and Farrendale weather stations have day degree accumulations if you scroll right to the bottom (note these are from the 15th of October). Save these to home screen on your ipad or phone by opening the link and press the “add to home screen” button. On your computer select add to favourites



Call me if you need help with registration for the inversion tower network. 0417226411

EARLY SEASON RETENTION TRIALS

The 2016/2017 season had high insect pressure from early on in the season which lead to the initiation of a CottonInfo trial program to find out whether high* pest (Green Mirid) pressure during early squaring

(Nov, Dec) really makes a difference to final fruit retention / yield? *high is double threshold of 4 mirids to the meter

An easy and effective way to impose high pest pressure in cotton is to introduce green mirids into unsprayed inclusion white cages that sit over an average of 10 plants.

However, as these cages will naturally create a different environment (sunlight and humidity) for plant growth a second treatment of cages with no mirids is required to accurately assess the mirid impact. The Mirids were introduced on the 20th of December and removed on the 6th of Jan. We have taken measurements of plant height, nodes and total squares and top 5 retention both when the Mirids were introduced and again when we have taken the cages off.

The next step will be to go back to the marked plants and conduct weekly maturity assessments and pick harvestable bolls until all bolls have been removed. Lint will then be measured for each net.

Check out the video Bloggs on the [Macquarie Cotton Growers Facebook Page](#).

While setting up in preparation for this trial with Sally Ceeney at "Riverview" we decided to do a side trial and put the cages on before squaring to see the difference in retention under the nets verses cotton that was not under the nets. This is just a field study as it does not compare cotton under the same environment like the Mirid trial.

Sally and I have done in field measurements on the 20th of Dec and 5th of Jan, see the next page for the results. Please be mindful this was just conducted in field conditions and the aim was to see if a plant still loses squares if we take the pressure of



Pic 1.

Nets on the cotton early squaring

external pests out of the equation. We were also interested in how retention compared inside and outside the nets. (see next page for results)

WHATS ON

As we did last year we are bringing out the big guns and delivering the who's who of researchers to our valley. I have been doing a trial out at "Strathern" that is looking at Nitrogen losses with different irrigation practices. We will be covering all the hot topics including

- Benchmarking to quantify irrigation losses on-farm: **Ali Chaffey, CottonInfo**.
 - Where do N losses occur and what can be done? **John Smith, CottonInfo; Ben Macdonald, CSIRO; Graeme Schwenke, NSW DPI; and Peter Grace, QUT**.
 - How does irrigation management influence losses in crop N uptake? - **Jon Baird, NSW DPI; Wendy Quayle, Deakin University; Dio Antille, USQ and James Latimer, CSIRO**.
 - How to maximise irrigation system performance? **Joe Foley, NCEA; and Gwydir Valley Irrigators' Association (GVIA)**.
 - Outcomes from N trials in each valley: **CottonInfo regional extension officers**.
- <https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/events/cottoninfo-research-tour-optimising-irrigation-nitrogen-macquarie>

Date: Wednesday 7 February

Time: 8am to 11:30am

Location: 'Strathern' Warren

amanda.thomas@cottoninfo.net.au OR [view the tour flyer](#).



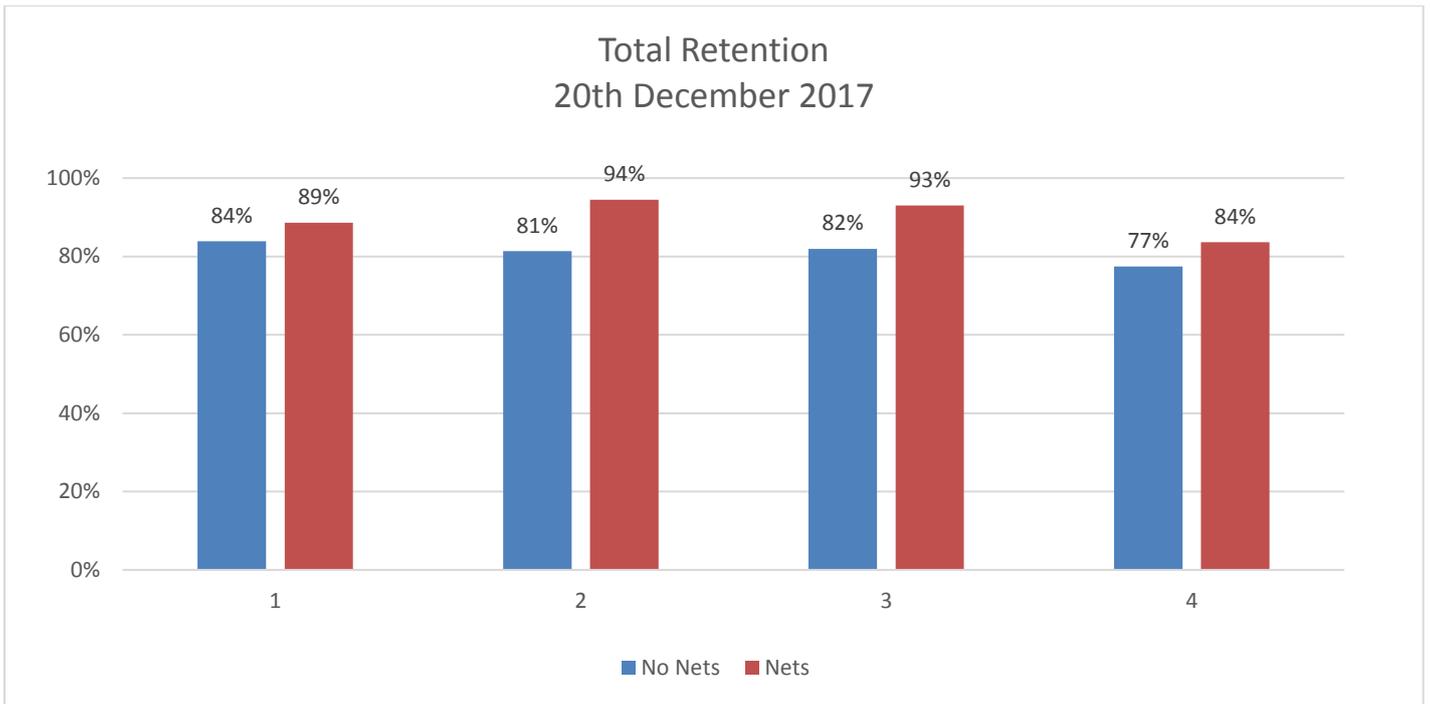


Fig 2. Total Retention taken on the 20th Dec (1 month after nets were put on)

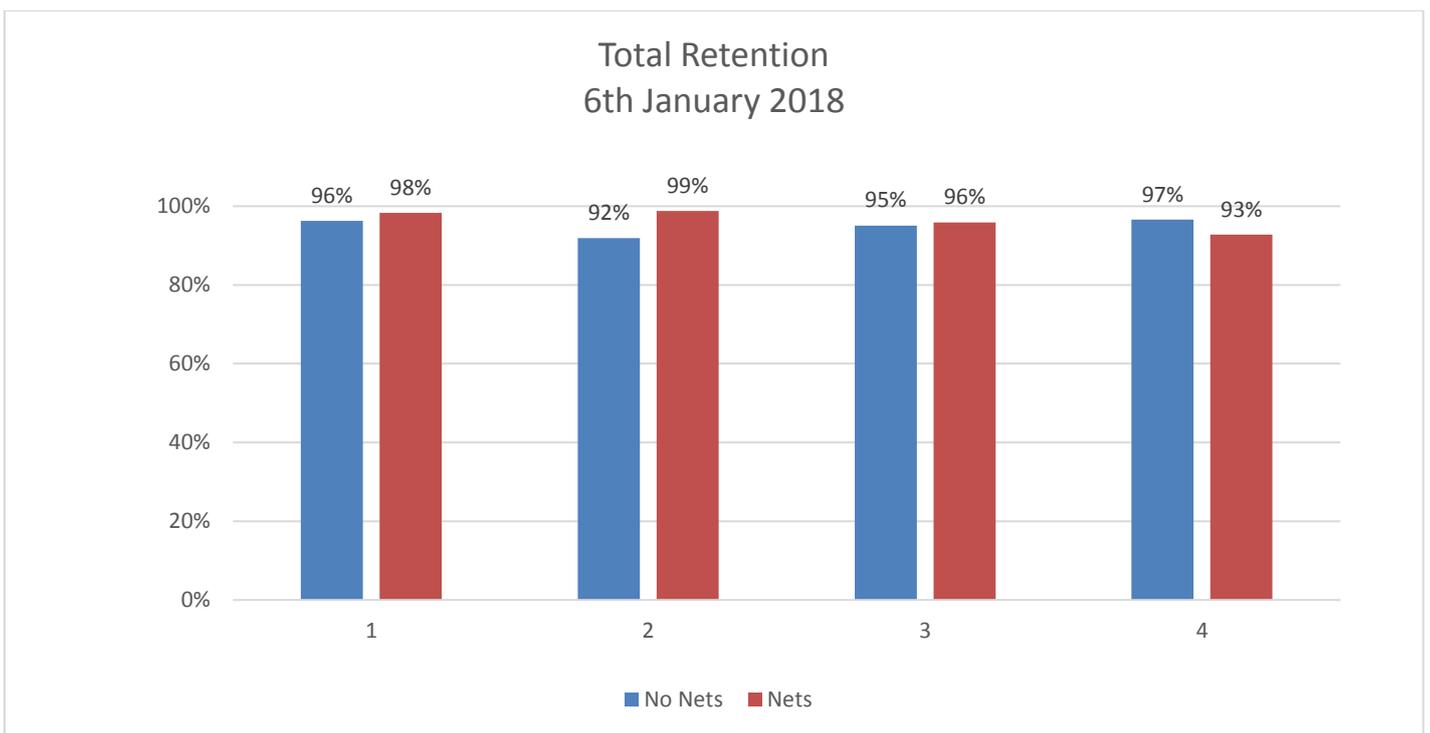


Fig 3 Total Retention taken on the 6th Jan

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New CSD Extension & Development Agronomist for the Macquarie Valley



Cotton Seed Distributors are pleased to announce the appointment of Craig McDonald as the new Extension & Development (E&D) agronomist for the Macquarie Valley.

Craig was an E&D agronomist with CSD for over five years in the mid-2000s, working with growers on the Darling Downs and in the Macquarie Valley. He returns to CSD after a ten-year hiatus spent working with Monsanto and Pioneer Seeds.

Craig is taking over from Bob Ford, who is transitioning into the Namoi Valley E&D role at CSD.

For any enquiries, please contact Craig on 0484 513 566 or cmcdonald@csd.net.au

Source CSD website

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