



## Southern NSW Cotton Tale

### November 2016

#### Welcome

*It is amazing the effect 14 days without rainfall can have! Most who were having trouble trafficking paddocks have now got cotton in, albeit on the edge of the ideal window for southern NSW. It is now up to good management and a favourable season to bring home reasonable yields.*

#### 2016-2017 season so far.....

No surprises that we are behind in all aspects of the weather except solar radiation for October. This data is for all of October but most crops have been planted from mid-October on. Each season I track 10 day averages of temperature, solar radiation, evapotranspiration and day degrees. This data comes from the CSIRO weather portal for Griffith. Day degrees data comes from the CottASSIST website which is worth a look with a range of handy tools.

Let's hope we can make up some ground as the season progresses with positive signs in the BOM [climate outlook video here](#).

#### Herbicide resistance testing

Monsanto is offering a free herbicide resistance testing program this season to all cotton growers that have grown Roundup Ready Flex in any of the previous three seasons. Growers can test five of the major weeds present in cotton systems for resistance to three critical herbicides,

Roundup Ready® Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD® by Monsanto, Verdict® and Select®. The five weeds are Annual ryegrass, Barnyard grass, Liverseed grass, Red Pigweed and Milk (sow) thistle.

I have a supply of envelopes that are needed to collect mature seed heads. Plant Science Consulting will carry out the testing with results back in around 12 weeks. The results are returned direct to the grower and others nominated by the grower. Monsanto will receive a collective report from Plant Science Consulting without individual grower details.

Please contact me if you would like to participate. Further information about the program is also available from Luke Sampson, Monsanto Regional Business Manager (0427 701 986 or [luke.sampson@monsanto.com](mailto:luke.sampson@monsanto.com)).

#### Research corner - Introducing Eric Koetz

**Position** - Research Agronomist, Southern Farming Systems, Weeds

**Location** - Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute

**Background** - Over 25 years of working as a Technical Officer and Research Agronomist in southern farming systems for CSIRO and NSW DPI.

**Focus** - My focus for this season is completing the screening of weed seeds collected last season for possible glyphosate resistance in cotton farming



is a joint initiative of



systems. The target weeds are, Awnless Barnyard Grass, Feathertop Rhodes Grass, Windmill Grass, Fleabane and Sow Thistle. This data will be used to update WEEDpak. A comprehensive survey of southern cotton farming systems is planned this season throughout the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Valleys. The strategy is to try and get across all Cotton regions in the industry over a three year period to identify changes in levels of resistance to glyphosate and to include screening of group A chemistry. A review of the target weeds might be undertaken after the ICAN Cotton Weeds workshop paper is completed. I can be contacted either directly or through CottonInfo REOs.  
**Contact** - 02 69 381 954, 0413 256 132.

### ***Events coming up (note: registration needed)***

**IPM Workshop, "Huddersfield", Darlington Point, Monday 21 Nov, 3pm**  
CottonInfo & CRDC are hosting a workshop at Darlington Point on 21 Nov, looking at managing pests using IPM while achieving high cotton yields.

Leading industry expert on IPM, Dr Lewis Wilson of CSIRO, will deliver the workshop, encouraging growers to rethink their pest management strategies.

Lewis will be joined by a number of other leading industry researchers - talking early season pest management, specific local pest control issues, and cotton physiology.

The workshop will finish with a BBQ at 6pm. Registration is essential and is needed by Thursday 17 Nov via email ([kieran.okeeffe@cottoninfo.net.au](mailto:kieran.okeeffe@cottoninfo.net.au)) or text (0427 207 406). Please register now. For more information, [click here](#).

**Spraywise workshop, Griffith Showgrounds, Tuesday 29 Nov, 6.30am**  
Advisors, applicators, growers and retailers are invited to a Nufarm SprayWise workshop, presented by Bill Gordon.

The half day program will consist of a series of short talks and demonstrations on:

- Sprayer set up and operation for efficacy & drift reduction; including Rogator and WeedIT demonstrations and test drive opportunities
- Product choices for key summer weeds and comparative damage to sensitive crops
- Managing spray drift risk, identifying suitable conditions for spraying, droplet drift versus volatility risk
- Decontamination - products and procedures
- Resources available to support good decisions and a Q&A session with the panel of industry speakers

All details for registration [here](#).

### **Smarter irrigation technology tour, 5-9 December**

Following the success of the 2015 Cotton Irrigation Automation tour, CottonInfo have joined forces with CRDC, RIRDC, Dairy Australia and Sugar Research Australia to showcase the research currently being undertaken within the Smarter Irrigation for Profit project.

Join in for four full days of farm visits in northern VIC and southern NSW to see various irrigation layouts, the automation technologies already in use in the southern irrigation industry and the technologies used to improve irrigation management.

Cost: \$550 incl. GST per person, including all travel, accommodation and meals. For more information, [click here](#).

On irrigation tours, planning is also underway for a northern tour in early February hosted by IREC and the Smarter Irrigation for Profit project. More details to come soon.

Until next time.  
**Kieran**

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