



# the cotton wrap

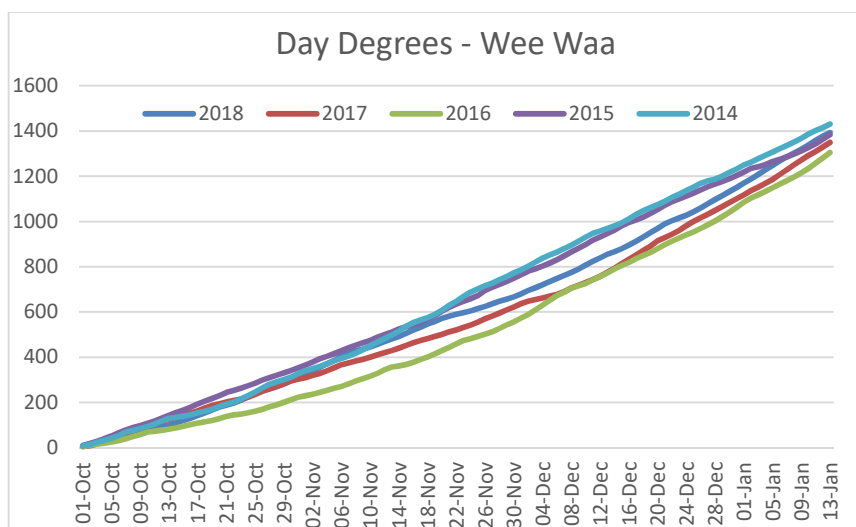
January 2018

## SEASON UPDATE

A quick overview of how we are tracking in terms of day degrees coming into another hot week.

Wee Waa at 13<sup>th</sup> Jan = 1392.5DD

Wee Waa	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Hot Days	29	31	27	19	33
Cold Shock	8	12	31	3	13



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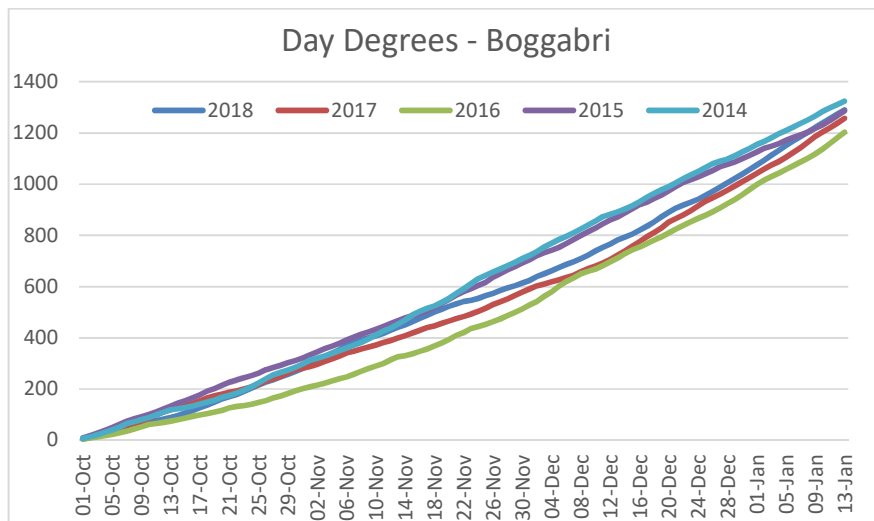


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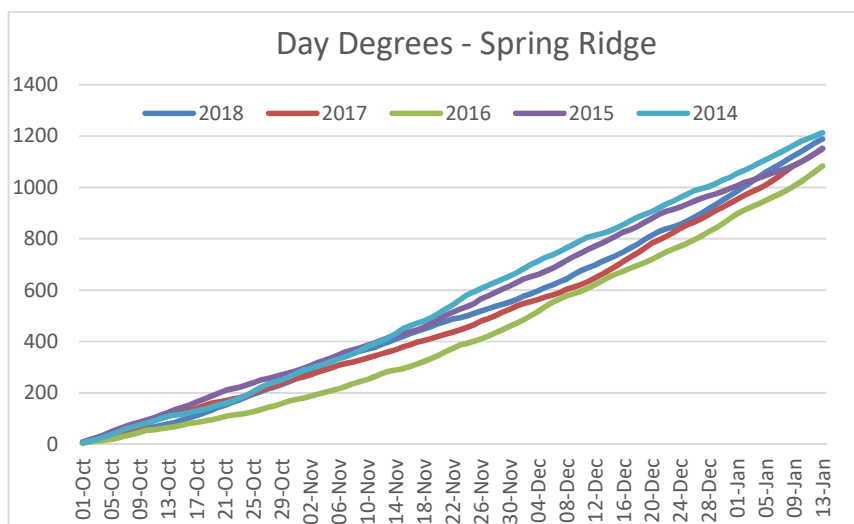
### Boggabri at 13<sup>th</sup> Jan = 1289.75DD

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Hot Days	28	27	18	17	19
Cold Shock	12	16	36	5	20



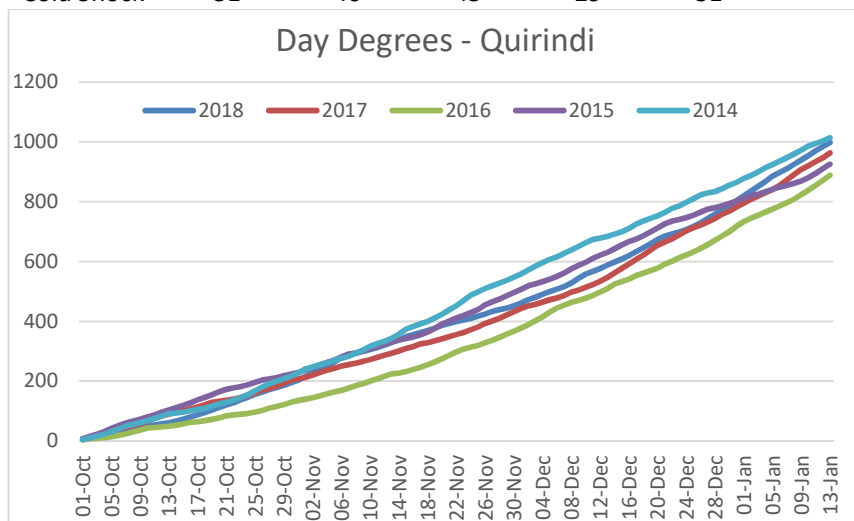
### Spring Ridge at 13<sup>th</sup> Jan = 1188.75DD

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Hot Days	22	19	14	11	16
Cold Shock	15	20	39	12	25



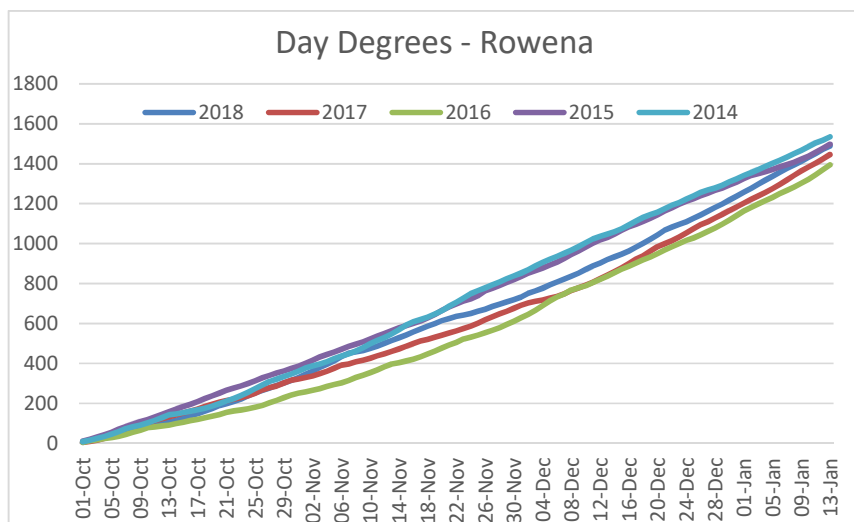
### Quirindi at 13<sup>th</sup> Jan = 997DD

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Hot Days	7	12	6	1	4
Cold Shock	31	40	45	29	31



### Rowena at 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – 1490DD

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Hot Days	37	36	38	31	39
Cold Shock	5	7	26	0	8



# **BUG CHECK for the Upper & Lower Namoi Valley**

**Crop Check Week ending 10/1/19**

## **Upper Namoi**

### **CROP STAGE:**

- 15-20 nodes

### **INSECT PESTS / BENEFICALS:**

- Mirid fight late December/start January
- Mirids increasing to and above threshold
- Mealybug found near Gunnedah

### **DISEASE / ENVIRONMENTAL:**

- Verticillium Wilt found in known fields

## **Lower Namoi**

### **CROP STAGE:**

- 14-23 nodes
- Up to 16 fruiting branches
- Some crops have had low rates of PIX

### **INSECT PESTS / BENEFICALS:**

- Mirid activity on second round of spraying
- Beneficial insects are increasing, lacewings and beetles
- Most fields have had one insecticide
- Very occasional SLWF has been noted and are increasing
- Overall pest pressure is currently light
- Plenty of beneficial's

### **WEEDS**

- Pigweed and b ketmia still around in some areas

### **DISEASE / ENVIRONMENTAL:**

- Verticillium Wilt present on all fields which historically have a presence
- Have been seeing Vert symptoms since well before Christmas in some places

## **What the agronomists and consultants are saying:**

- "Still seeing hormone damage in crops"
- "Water use increasing as crop develops"
- "Crops still quite compact but mostly adequate NAWF"

- “Top 5 retentions generally in the high 80s or 90s”
- “Vert is perhaps worse in 746 and 714 than in the 748”
- “Water is tightening up and some crops will be short”

Mealybug spotted again just North of Gunnedah. It is important to remember “Come clean go clean” principles when moving within areas which could be subject to mealybug exposure. Any sightings should be marked and reported to Elsie Hudson, Cottoninfo REO, 0456914637.

*Please note, that all agronomic decisions should be based around your crop and the pests found in it.  
This document is a summary of responses from consultant’s in the Namoi Valley region.*

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## DISEASE UPDATE

Verticillium has been very prevalent this season, with sightings are early as the start of December. Duy Le, plant pathologist from NSW DPI received samples from young cotton plants (10-12 nodes) well before Christmas which had vert confirmed in the isolation.

It's important to monitor your crops and send plant samples for testing, to ensure correct ID.

- Wrap plant samples (stems and leaves) in a paper bag, envelope, or dry newspaper and place this within a second, preferably sealed paper bag – **never use plastic**.
- Write your name, farm name, field name/number, a GPS coordinate or equivalent and date on the outside of this bag.
- IF SAMPLES ARE NOT LABELLED AND PACKAGED CORRECTLY, THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY ACRI RECEPTION.
- Each bag should contain samples from one field only.
- **Attach a completed diagnostic form** (see link below) when sending samples including information such as symptoms, field history and variety.
- Keep the samples cool (placed in the fridge) and send as soon as possible after collecting.
- It is better to despatch samples early in the week rather than just before the weekend.
- NB: If Fusarium is suspected DO NOT SEND SAMPLE TO ACRI, CONTACT: Dr Duy Le (0439 941 542) or Dr Linda Smith (0457 547 617)



For further information on Verticillium Wilt go to the CottonInfo website for fact sheets:

[How to collect, store and send disease samples](#)

[Disease diagnostic form](#)

[Verticillium Wilt Fast Facts](#)

[Latest Vert Research](#)

## SPRAY DRIFT

The Upper Namoi CGA organised for Mary O'Brien (*#spraydriftgirl* on twitter) to conduct a series of workshops on spray application and spray drift. Mary was able to come down to Spring Ridge and Boggabri for two courses which not only went through chemical use best practice but also on drift mitigation and explanations about the amended 2,4-D labelling.



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*The spraydrift workshop in Boggabri on December 11<sup>th</sup> had both indoor theory components and outside demonstrations to reiterate the importance of spray management.*

There have been several reports of cotton still showing symptoms of hormone damage throughout the valley, which is really disappointing.

**Drift is preventable** see [Summer weed control BEST practice](#) and [Keep the Spray on the Weeds](#) poster.

***“Regardless of the active ingredient or what crop you grow or where you grow it, as a chemical user, it's your responsibility to keep product on your land.***

***If you're not achieving this, then your equipment, practices & most likely your attitude need urgent review”*** Mary O'Brien #getmydrift

Never spray under still or inversion conditions. Do you know how to recognise an inversion? See this very good video [Recognising an early morning inversion](#)

Compare that video to this one: A demonstration of air movement after an inversion breaks. [Daytime conditions for spraying](#)

Expect an inversion EVERY night unless you have one or more of these:

- Heavy low cloud
- It is raining
- Wind speed remains above 11km/hr for the entire time between sunset and sunrise

**ITS NOT ABOUT THE WIND SPEED BUT HOW THE AIR IS MOVING**, we need some turbulent air movement to dilute our spray and pull fine droplets to ground. Under inversion the air loses turbulence and movement becomes parallel to the surface. Camera sprayers are also affected by inversions.

Further information

- Stop the drift – spray drift tips with Mary O'Brien [Weed Smart Stop the Drift Webinar](#)
- <https://maryobrienrural.com.au/resources/>
- <https://www.sosmacquarievalley.com.au/resources>

All you need to know about the recent APVMA 2,4-D label instruction changes in one place:

<https://www2.nufarm.com/au/2018/11/14/apvma-24-d-2-2/>

***“We're on the knife edge, regulation on this product will continue to tighten and we will lose this product”*** Mary O'Brien #getmydrift



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Bankless Irrigation Field Day

- Date: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Supported by NWIAL (North West Irrigation Australia Regional Committee), Gwydir Valley CGA, CottonInfo, NWLLS and NSW DPI Sustaining the Basin

### CSD Field Day

- Date: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Location: Little Mollee @ CSD farms

### Lower Namoi Crop Comp/Field Day

- Date: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Location: Will coincide with CSD field day and more information will be released soon.

**Total/Ag Skilled** - See attached flyer for comprehensive list of dates and courses on offer in 2019

Cheers,

**Elsie Hudson**

Regional Extension Officer Namoi Valley & Walgett

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*General guide only, not comprehensive or specific technical advice. Circumstances vary from farm to farm. To the fullest extent permitted by law, CSD expressly disclaims all liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information, statement or opinion in this presentation or from any errors or omissions in this document.*



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