



the cotton tale

February 2019

Bugcheck and Season progress

19th February

- Summary from comments of 9 advisors
- Light mirids, plenty of beneficials. Whitefly present but monitoring.
- Whitefly, mite, and mirid numbers are low and steady.
- Some fields with Two spotted mites have been treated.
- Starting to stretch out irrigations.
- Retention holding at 65-75% on average.
- 2nd last water happening or will be within days. Last water 12-14 after that.
- Alternaria pressure has increased to treatable levels in some fields from recent rainfall.
- First cracked bolls being observed.
- Crop potential is good to very good where water kept up in January (majority)
- Boll counts from 140/m to 170/m
- Minimal parrot beaking and “subjectively” boll size appears good visually where no limitations.
- Early fields 9 Nodes Above Mature Boll, later fields 14 NAMB

IREC/SVCGA Ag Technology tour

19th -21st March

Departing 6am March 19th from Griffith Tourist Information centre.

Returning 7.30pm March 21st Cost: \$220 IREC & SVCGA members, \$330 Non Members . Cost is subsidised through a CRDC Grassroots grant

Site visits include:

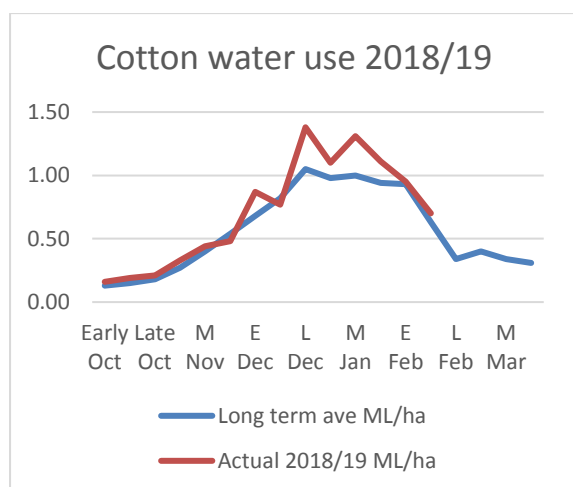
Fletchers International Dubbo /Auscott Midkin farm tour/Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year Field Day (“Mundine” Goondiwindi)/Swarm Farm Robotics /Keytah farm tour/Rock-ramp fishway Dubbo

For bookings contact IREC, Iva Quarisa on 0402 069643, iva@irec.org.au or IREC office 02 6963 0936

Cotton water use 2018/2019

The graph below is based on the water budget at the end of the newsletter. We are now past

peak water use and water demand does drop away from late February.



***Eretmocerus hayati* wasp release by drone for Silverleaf whitefly management at IREC field station early February.**

Siphon-less Irrigation Field Day, Moree

North West Irrigation Australia (IAL) Regional Committee joined forces with GVIA and CottonInfo recently held a field day to look at

the range of Siphon-less irrigation systems in place in the Northern cotton valleys
Some of the key messages out of the day were:

- Soil type and slope will drive your design.
- While there are 3 main designs used in the north, each one is unique to the farm, there will be differences in design depending on soil type, field slope, infiltration characteristic, flow rate.
- Growers who have adopted siphon-less irrigation are seeing labour savings and machinery efficiencies, some have reduced tail waters and all have a better lifestyle
- The questions surrounding these systems are about irrigation performance. It hasn't been measured, we don't understand properly the uniformity of application and what the losses are.
- Most believe there isn't a significant change in water use or yield.
- Flat designs – potential for drainage issues during wet periods.
- There is definitely less control of water compared to a siphon system
- Structures are costly
- Generally reduce green area (although the % reported by growers varies).
- Complexity of the system means it pays to work with a designer.

A comprehensive field day booklet was produced and is available at this link.

https://www.gvia.org.au/community-and-industry-initiatives/industry-partnerships/siphon-less-irrigation/Irrigation-Guide_2019-NEW-Exec_4.pdf

Industry resources

I have recently updated my grower newsletter mailing list with many of you reading this for the first time. I aim to put together a topical newsletter every month through the growing season to keep everyone informed of local and industry research, crop progress and events coming up.

I encourage those that are not subscribing to the CSD and CottonInfo extension services to register here

<http://www.csd.net.au/subscribe>

You will receive all the latest News, Events, Updates, Facts on Fridays and Videos from Cotton Seed Distributors.

<https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/subscribe>

Subscribing to CottonInfo you will receive fortnightly CottonInfo e-news and moisture manager, quarterly Spotlight magazines, and the annual Australian Cotton Production Manual and Cotton Pest Management Guide.

Save the Date

(more detail to come)

- **Cotton Collective 24th-25th July**
Griffith
- **SVCGA Awards dinner, Friday 16th**
August

Regards Kieran



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Cotton water budget 2018/19

Eto	Long term ave (mm)	Kc	Eto x Kc	ML/ha	2018/19 Actual (mm)	Actual x Kc	ML/ha	
Early Oct	4.4	0.3	1.33	0.13	5.40	1.62	0.16	
Mid Oct	5.0	0.3	1.49	0.15	6.22	1.87	0.19	
Late Oct	5.6	0.3	1.67	0.18	6.50	1.95	0.21	
				0.47			0.56	
E Nov	5.9	0.45	2.65	0.27	7.36	3.31	0.33	
M Nov	6.6	0.6	3.99	0.40	7.33	4.40	0.44	
L Nov	7.3	0.75	5.44	0.54	6.40	4.80	0.48	
				1.21			1.25	
E Dec	7.5	0.9	6.76	0.68	9.71	8.74	0.87	
M Dec	7.8	1.05	8.20	0.82	7.29	7.65	0.77	
L Dec	8.0	1.2	9.58	1.05	10.44	12.53	1.38	
				2.55			3.02	
E Jan	8.2	1.2	9.85	0.98	9.19	11.03	1.10	
M Jan	8.3	1.20	9.98	1.00	10.91	13.09	1.31	
L Jan	7.9	1.20	9.42	0.94	9.27	11.12	1.11	
				2.92			3.52	
E Feb	7.7	1.20	9.29	0.93	7.92	9.50	0.95	
M Feb	7.1	0.90	6.35	0.63	7.78	7.00	0.70	
L Feb	6.5	0.65	4.19	0.34				
				1.90				
E Mar	6.1	0.65	3.96	0.40				
M Mar	5.3	0.65	3.42	0.34				
L Mar	4.4	0.65	2.84	0.31				
				1.05				
Total				10.10				
								%
Planting till flowering water use		4.22			Planting till flowering water use		4.83	114
Flowering water use		3.85			Flowering water use		4.47	116
Post cut out		2.02			Post cut out			
					Total so far		10.00	
		10.10				10th Jan	20th Jan	20th Feb
					Actual x Kc - Rain	4.92	6.23	8.46

Table of Day Degree Details for Griffith Csiro (75028)

Day Degree Accumulations for the period 1 October to 20 February in the years 1957 to 2019.

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

Date	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	Hi 2018	Lo 1964	Average
Hot Days	44.0	35.0	33.0	26.0	31.0	37.0	44.0	12.0	20.4
Cold Shock	33.0	27.0	51.0	20.0	25.0	47.0	33.0	73.0	43.4
20-Feb	1,831.0	1,740.0	1,565.0 *	1,705.5	1,700.5	1,660.3 *	1,831.0	1,204.8	1,466.1