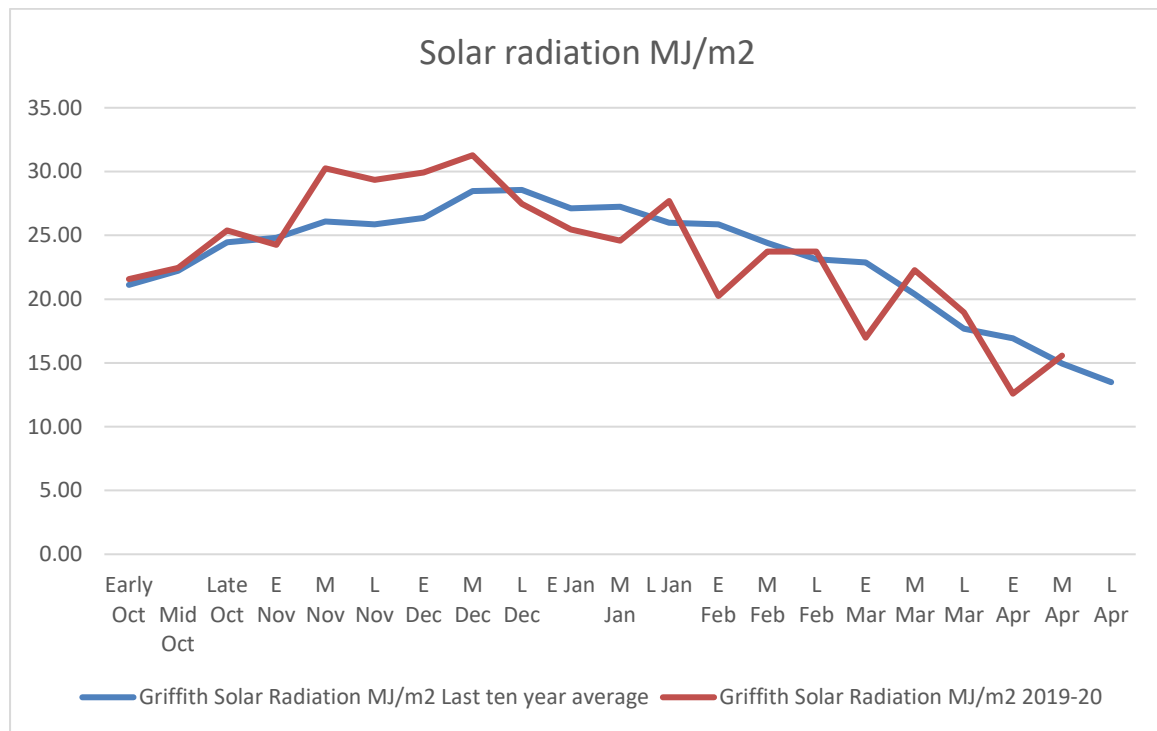




# the cotton tale

**21 April 2020**

It has been a very mild finish to the summer cropping season with lower than average maximum temperatures and reduced solar radiation since the start of 2020.



## What the agronomists are saying ....

**Crop stage** – 6 NACB to first pass and second pass defoliation.

**Insects/beneficials** - Some whitefly present but very low numbers.

**Weeds** – Some late weed pressure (Milk thistle, Paterson’s curse, Annual ryegrass), Round up in second pass defoliation.

**Disease/Environmental** – Alternaria and early senescence in some crops but not all.

**General comments** – Boll numbers are solid but size likely down. Defoliation working surprisingly well considering temperatures. Top fruit slow to mature. Picking will begin in May but will be running late. Some soil profiles will be wetter than ideal.



Final irrigation trial at Hay showing number of irrigations short from mid - February

## Evidence based Ag

Over the years I have seen many trials set up by farmers and/or advisors trying to answer a question. As examples - What is the best rate of N fertiliser for that field? Do I get a response from 2t/ha of gypsum? Will product X give me an economic return?

Due to the perception that trial work is complicated to set up and measure, many of these trials just become a product or practice over a whole or half a bay or a strip through the bay. In many cases there is no true nil strip or control to compare with in the same bay. This set up does not allow for scientific and valid conclusions to be made from the trial in that season. Note that single strips can work if they are analysed properly though specific statistical tests.

To take out bias trial treatments should be replicated at least three and ideally four times in a suitable width of the planter (normally up and back). If there are different treatments in the trial, they also need to be randomised across the field so not to favour one treatment over another. I remember seeing a product trial where the strip was placed in the fill section and the control was in the cut section of the bay. Not a fair comparison!

Irec K trial - Middle  
Field 5

		North									
Buffer		Rep 3			Rep 2			Rep 1			Buffer
		0	200	100	100	0	200	0	100	200	
rows	20	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24

South  
Trial example showing replicated and randomised treatments

The SVCGA bale trailer (funded through CRDC/Deakin Uni/NSW DPI) has helped growers do their own research. The trailer has allowed quick assessment of yields from the replicated treatments and statistical analysis allows a valid conclusion to be drawn - Was the result a significant difference or not?

It may even become easier next season with the use of Precision Ag to track these trials through the season and use analysis programs to give the results through yield maps. I am currently working with providers to get a user friendly system in place. The goal is to get growers thinking about what they want to do with trials next season and get some design principles in place. If you're interested in being involved in developing on farm trials for next season just send me an email and I will schedule a virtual get together.

### Plant health top tips – APRIL: COME CLEAN GO CLEAN

Come Clean. Go Clean is one of the simplest yet most effective ways of minimising the spread of weeds, diseases and pests. With the increased prevalence of glyphosate resistant weeds and the constant threat of pests and diseases, it is important to **ensure that all machinery, vehicles and equipment arriving on and leaving farm are mud and trash free**. Read the entire CottonInfo Blog [here](#).

**Latest IREC Farmers Newsletter** The latest Farmers newsletter is now available at the IREC website <https://irec.org.au/farmers-newsletter/>

### CottonInfo Winter crop climate outlook webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgCvjZ2Sn3s>

## CSD Extension & Information Survey

Due to current circumstances with the unfolding COVID-19 health pandemic, Cotton Seed Distributors will unfortunately be unable to host the Cotton Management Tour this year.

We plan to hold the CMT again in 2021, but in the meantime we are seeking your feedback to help guide our delivery of information and activities prior to the 2020-21 cotton season.

Please take 5 minutes to complete our [short, anonymous survey](#).

We'll be in touch in the coming weeks and months with more details on our information and activity program, based on the feedback in this survey.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of CSD and assure you that we have plenty of cotton seed stock on hand, ready to supply a full industry plant in the 2020-21 season.

### Mystery tree. Can you name this tree?



## March Answer - Rosella



Regards Kieran

### Disclaimer:

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

