



Information when you need it



the **cotton tale**

September 2020



Welcome to the new season! Things are looking a lot more positive with good water availability and the cotton price hovering around \$500/bale. The spring outlook is also strong for a wetter than average spring which will help winter crops reach potential.

Soil temperature network

Day time temperatures have been above average through September and with moisture in fields it is helping soil temperatures to stabilise even with cool nights. The green light for planting is when soil temperatures are at least a minimum of 14 degrees at 8 am in the morning for three days and there is a rising plane of forecast temperatures.

Vigorous crop growth at the start is needed to

- outrun disease
- develop healthy root systems
- have a large and healthy canopy prior to flowering
- avoid unnecessary delays that shorten fruiting cycles and/or achieve earliness



So how early can you plant? There is no advantage in going too early and it can backfire and lead to gappy and poor plant stands if a cold front comes across. Judgement needs to be made using the 7 day temperature forecast.

CSD members have access to an extensive soil temperature network that gives guidance on when you have the green light to water up the crop. In most locations in Southern NSW the most reliable planting window is in the first two weeks of October.

<https://www.csd.net.au/membership>

Yield prediction

Looking at forecast temperatures, the predicted temperatures for October and November look to be a lot more favourable for good growth than last season. There is a reasonable correlation between 15/32 day degrees in October and November and Southern NSW district yields and if the forecast is close to actual temperatures then it could be one of the best starts in the last ten years. Still a lot of seasonal influences after the start but it does have a flow on effect to the end result.

See the attachment for the yield forecast. As the saying goes “exercise appropriate scepticism”.

Integrated Disease Management

The September blog for our plant health tips in honour of International Year of Plant Health is out now. It focuses on the cornerstones of IDM and Linda Smith provides her thoughts on what practices she believes should be the cornerstone of every IDM strategy.

<https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/plant-health-top-tips-september-cornerstones-integrated-disease-management>

Impact of early season retention on yield potential in high-yielding Bollgard® 3 cotton

Paul Grundy and his team have conducted intensive trials over the past two seasons as part of a CRDC project. This research has investigated the impact of early season square loss on the growth, yield and quality of commercial irrigated Bollgard® 3 cotton. Squares were removed from fruiting branches (FB) 1-5 pre-flowering, FB 6-10 just after first flower, or both (FB 1-10; removed at two separate occasions) of all plants within treatment plots. Treatments were replicated 4 times across 5 sites (Emerald, Dalby, Brookstead, Goondiwindi & Whitton) and measurements made of crop growth (dry matter partitioning and retention), maturity and yield components in response to the damage treatments. Crops were not managed for compensation, as each experiment was located within a commercial field with inputs managed accordingly.

The 2020 season results demonstrated that high yielding Bollgard® 3 varieties can fully compensate for extensive square loss prior to flowering across a range of environments without compromising lint quality and time to maturity or requiring additional management inputs.

This research so far suggests that Bollgard® 3 varieties are well placed to achieve timely and effective compensation from early season square loss and that industry mirid management practices that aim to maintain square retention well above 70% prior to flowering maybe excessive. Results so far suggest that retention becomes much more critical as the crop moves past the very early flowering stage with damage sustained up until this time, even if severe, being rapidly compensated. Some interesting statistics to consider is that 75% of a crops fruiting sites have not even been grown by first flower and at maturity the average high yielding crop will have retained about 40% of the total sites produced (at best 50%). Research is ongoing to capture seasonal variation and it is anticipated that recommendations on the management of fruit retention will be able to be provided to industry in due course.

CottonInfo YouTube

Some exciting new tools are close to commercialisation (an in season yield estimator and a handheld NIR for nutritional analysis) and are featured in these short clips.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7ns4AccRMc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUuI0PjRH24>

Survey winner

Thanks to those that participated in the annual survey. There was a good response with over 60 % of the crop represented. The gift voucher for completing the survey was won by Gavin Dal Broi!

I am currently accepting nominations for the SVCGA last season awards. Nominations will be accepted until the end of September. Work with your advisor and gin to get your nomination in.

Pilots4Harvest 2020 - Facebook group for Harvest workers



Where did that cloud come from?

Amanda Thomas, CottonInfo REO, in the Macquarie valley has set up a Facebook Group to connect farmers with farm workers for harvest.

This group is aimed at connecting farmers who are looking for harvest workers and aviation industry members who are keen to come out bush and do harvest work during the pandemic. The group will share details of those that have positions and those that are keen to do harvest work. Please share the details of this page with those that are looking for workers. Use #Pilots4Harvest2020. Phone numbers maybe visible to the public so please opt for messenger if you don't want your phone number to be shared. If you have filled the position please let the page admin know or edit your post to say position filled.

Events coming up

Thursday 24th September 12.20 pm SVCGA AGM – Griffith Leagues Club

RSVP required to admin@svcga.com.au

Due to COVID-19 the CGA will have the option to dial in virtually and ask all attendees to maintain their social distancing etiquette. The meeting will be followed by lunch at approximately 1pm. If you would like to attend virtually Join Zoom Meeting

<https://olam.zoom.us/j/98917602026>





September quiz - Where is this in NSW?

Regards Kieran

Disclaimer:

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