



# the cotton tale

*Southern NSW No 5 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018*

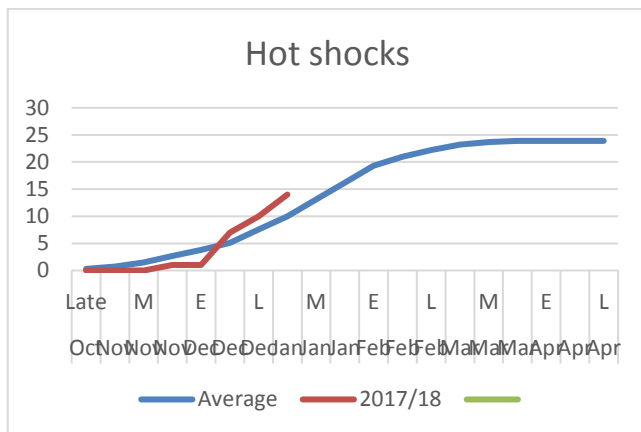
## **Weather conditions and crop progress**

I have had some comments over the last few days that this current crop is some of the best high potential cotton ever seen. A big turnaround from last season.

Weather conditions have been excellent so far with day degrees in the top 10 % of years. Crops are approaching cut out in the next week which is earlier than the norm.

During this important flowering period, it is important not to stress the crop with some reminders here at this link

<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/blog/managing-heat-stress-cotton-january-2018>



Crops are at 20 to 22 nodes with high to very high retention. In general pest pressure has been low with good predatory numbers. There are some isolated areas of mirids building and Silverleaf Whitefly are showing up on farms where they were present last season.

## **Keep the spray on the weeds**



It is very disappointing to hear reports over the last week of widespread hormone damage to cotton crops. Damage levels vary from light, to moderate, to severe.

Some growers are now installing 10 m towers on to weather stations to provide a forecast for inversions which they will share with nearby neighbors. From what I have observed the towers will at least raise awareness that over summer most nights have inversion conditions and if you follow the label you can not spray Group I chemistry when an inversion is present.

If you have been impacted by drift it needs to be reported to Cotton Australia through the local CA Regional Manager, Honi Anderson Ph 0437 700 300



**Local 10 m inversion tower**

### **Early season survey disease results**

The NSW DPI Pathology team of Duy and Gregson have provided a summary of the survey conducted in late October and early November.

### **Murrumbidgee valley early season disease survey summary:**

14 fields, 9 farms, across Whitton, Coleambally, Darlington Point, Hay area.

BRR incidence av. **14.7%** (range 0-80.3%) Rhizoctonia incidence av. **47.9%** (range 0-96.3%) Both Pythium and Fusarium incidence very low, detected on one farm, at **<1%** av. incidence. In the case of Fusarium samples taken, lab work did not detect fusarium, however BRR was present.

Seed rates varied from 14s/m - 20s/m, with an average stand count of **11.5** (range 5.7-15.3 plants/m). This puts seedling mortality at an average **32%** across farms.

Volunteers were present in 6 out of 9 farms in the Murrumbidgee, in roads, channels and current

cotton. Rates were predominantly <10 (rare), however 2 farms were in the 10-100 range (common).

### **Lachlan valley early season disease survey summary**

8 fields across the Condobolin, Hillston and Forbes regions.

BRR incidence av. **36.5%** (range 0-98.5%)

Rhizoctonia incidence av. **50.2%** (range 0-99.7%).

Pythium incidence very low, detected on one farm, at **<1%** av. incidence

The ratings above are based on field symptoms, with further IDs of the pathogens confirmed in the lab. In most cases, corresponding pathogens were recovered from sick seedlings. BRR pathogens were recovered from seedlings with symptoms of BRR. Alternaria were recovered from Alternaria leaf spots.

However, in most cases Fusaria were recovered from seedlings with putative symptoms of Rhizoctonia infection. This has raised questions as to whether it is the Fusarium group inducing the field symptoms or if Rhizoctonia has been present but not successfully isolated in the lab. Additionally, field symptoms are probably not always sufficient enough for correct ID. Further IDs for these Fusaria/Rhizoctonia samples is underway.

Seed rates varied from 14s/m - 17s/m, with an average stand count of **12** (range 9-14 plants/m). This puts seedling mortality at an average **24%** across farms.

Very few volunteers recorded in the Lachlan, at most sites 0, some <10.

We recorded some sandblasting, and alternaria in low levels at surveying between the 30th Oct - 2nd Nov.

## **Herbicide resistance testing 2017 Results**

Eric Koetz NSW DPI, CottonInfo Technical lead, Weeds has provided a summary of weeds tested for resistance status in the 2017 season. These samples came from all cotton regions.

### **42 weed samples tested**

75 % of Fleabane samples from 2017 season came back as resistant to glyphosate

**2 Fleabane populations were resistant to paraquat at 2L/ha**

Only 6 populations of sowthistle were collected and all were susceptible

11 populations of windmill grass collected, 5 resistant to glyphosate

ABYG and FTRG being assessed at the moment

### **Events coming up**

- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 8.30 am for breakfast**, IREC Field day. Short talks from cotton researchers about a range of trials on site. See flyer for details
- **Tuesday 6 February**, Optimising Irrigation & Nitrogen Researchers Tour, Point Farms, 8am -11.30 am. See flyer attached.
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, 4 day Northern Bus Tour (7-10/2/2018), attending the "Keytah" Field Day at Moree, tour of "Cubbie Station", visiting 3 properties around St George including the 2012 Cotton Grower of the Year.
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March**, Hay Ag and Pastoral Innovation Expo. More details to come
- **Tuesday 27 March**, SVCGA Monsanto Grower of the Year Field day, 9am till Lunch, Cavaso Farming, Ringwood, Kidman Way.

### **Where is this?**



*Last month's answer- De Bortoli Gardens, Bilbul*

Until next time.

### **Kieran**

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