



the cotton tale

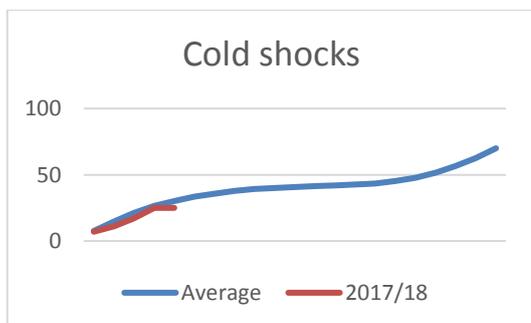
Southern NSW No 3. 21st November 2017

Welcome

We have seen the full range of weather conditions over the past few weeks with cool windy conditions resulting in increased disease pressure, followed by storms resulting in some areas of significant hail damage and big rainfall totals. A run of fine warm conditions now is very welcome coinciding with the first in crop irrigation.

Weather conditions and crop progress

Many crops are at six nodes plus and are now developing quickly. Thrips have been in large numbers this season and a lot of crops have been sprayed. Hopefully good growing conditions will see crops put on new leaf area and bounce away. If you pull some plants up carefully you will see excellent root development down to 20 cm. Cold shocks (<12°C) are running just below average and crops planted in early October have not had any hot shocks (>35°C). Day degrees for 1st October planting till 20th November Griffith is at 421.9 which is 56.7 DD above average. This is in the top 20% of years for DDs.



If we continue with this trend we should see good square development in most crops by the end of November and some flowers by Christmas. The Cottassist website is limited in function at the moment so I am unable to give a regional snapshot of day degree progress. A new function on the CSD website does allow day degrees to be calculated for the sites in many locations in the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys.

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

Alternaria

The cold windy conditions have predisposed the cotyledons of a number of crops to infections of Alternaria leaf spot. The spores come from cotton residues from the previous season. In some cases it has occurred in fallow paddocks but cotton trash next to the field would have been the source. Some crops have been sprayed with fungicides. With the improved weather conditions crops have grown away from the infection and recovered.



Black root rot



Everyone should have received an email with a report of the past research done on managing Black Root Rot. A few key points here on the disease.

1. Black root rot (BRR) will not kill cotton but will delay development. It is favoured by cool wet starting conditions.
2. The disease will build up in fields with a history of cotton. It will start as small patches of slow growing plants in fields apparent only early in the growing season. In subsequent seasons the patches may no longer be obvious as the fungus spreads throughout the field.
3. Rotation out of cotton will delay the disease but even fields with rotation crops will have build up of disease after about five cotton crops in the paddock history.
4. The disease is favoured by cotton following susceptible crops including most legumes and cotton.
5. Biofumigant crops, including incorporated vetch, mustard or canola can reduce the fungus spore loads.
6. Fields should ideally have a two or three year break from BRR hosts.
7. Summer flooding of fields when temperatures exceed 30°C for at least 30 days can reduce spore loads.
8. Delaying the planting date of fields known to have BRR can reduce the severity of the disease.

9. Recent research has shown a reduction in spore numbers by rotating to rice in the field.
10. Current research is happening on validating a predictive test for BRR levels.
11. Breeders are working on genetic resistance to the disease, but it will be a number of years away.

Cotton disease samples

If you want to positively identify a disease in your crop plant samples can be sent to the NSW DPI pathology team. The details on how to send samples is here as an attachment. Strict care must be taken when packaging and sending samples to ACRI. If Fusarium Wilt is suspected do not send samples to ACRI but contact the NSW DPI team
Aphrika Gregson 0429 963 894
Dr Duy Le 0439 941 542
Fusarium wilt samples are diagnosed by Dr Linda Smith in Queensland 0457 547 617

CottonInfo Mirid trial



I have set up some exclusion and inclusion tents at the IREC field station. This trial is looking at early season pest pressure from mirids on early square retention. Six of the cages will have no insects present while six will have 4 thrips/m added in at early squaring in this crop. The cages will stay on for two weeks and plants will be assessed through to open boll.



Labour hire services

This is one of the many options for those looking for staff.

AgDraft is a website aimed at making it easier for farmers to find quality labour. Farmers can sign up to AgDraft, post a job advertisement, browse worker profiles, create shortlists and connect directly with skilled workers. The site differentiates itself from other websites by providing a review system. That is, the workers are reference-checked when they sign up and are then reviewed by the farmer each time they complete a job on the site. Farmers can view the worker's 'star-rating' and read comments from previous employers. Similarly, the worker can review the farmer at the end of a job which means good employers are rewarded with more applicants the next time they are looking! AgDraft has been operating for just under two years and has grown a strong network of farm employers and jobseekers. To date, AgDraft has predominantly been servicing mixed farming businesses in North West NSW with strong success and positive feedback from users. Now, AgDraft is keen to meet the labour needs of cotton growers in Southern NSW. If you are looking for labour this summer, AgDraft are offering Cotton Growers their first job-post for **FREE**. Sign up and post a cotton job **before 1st January 2018** and you won't pay a cent. Your job will stay live on the site for 45 days. You will receive notifications of worker sign-ups that meet your labour requirements for the full 45 days. Simply enter the phrase '**SNSW Summer Offer**' in the '**Referred by Token**' field when you sign up. If you have any questions or would like to know more please email grace@agdraft.com.au or visit www.agdraft.com.au.

New Growers

There are a lot of new growers in southern NSW and Victoria this season with over 60 growing cotton for the first time in 2017. Most new growers would be getting this newsletter, but some may have been

missed in getting industry extension material. If you know of anyone that is new to cotton growing can you get them to send me an email and I can include them.

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Events and dates coming up

- IPM Workshop 2, Friday 9th December 10.30 – 12.30. Other growers and consultants welcome at 1pm to meet with Industry researchers. IREC field station, Stott Road Whitton.
- 15th December, Nominations for SVCGA 2016/17 cotton awards close.
- Optimising Irrigation & Nitrogen Researchers Tour, 6th February 2018. More details to come.
- Date claimer - Grower of the Year Field day, 27th March. More details to come

Where is this? Bit easier this month.



Text me your answer.

Last month's answer- Cabaritta

Until next time.

Kieran

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