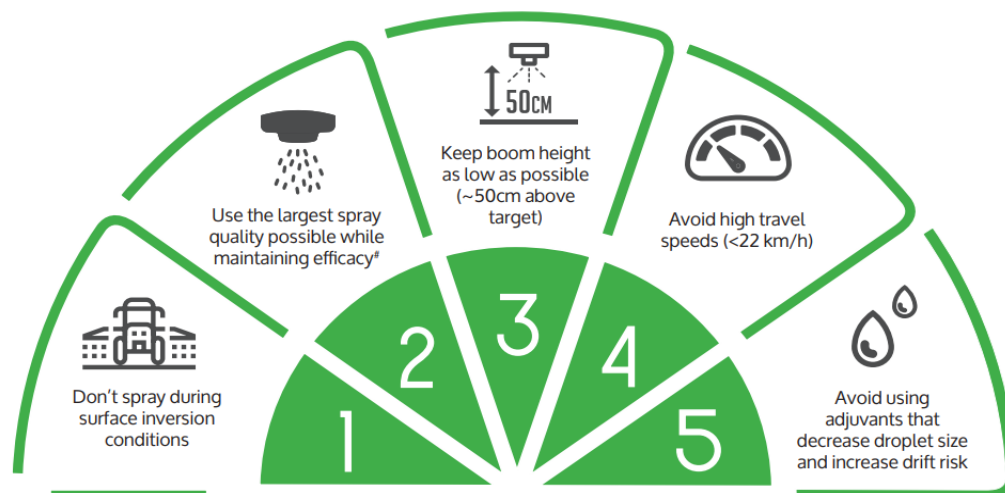




the cotton tale

December 2022

Five commandments according to SOS



Observe label directions for minimum and maximum droplet size. Water rates may need to be modified with increased droplet sizes

Working together

We live and farm in one of the most diverse farming communities in Australia and all crops (fruit, nuts, pastures, winter and summer crops both irrigated and dryland) can be impacted by spray drift. They can all however be the source of drift as well. We all have a duty of care not to impact on others in our community.



Spray drift continues to be a major issue across all industries in the region and across NSW. Despite pushing the key messages to reduce the risk of spray drift we have already seen a number of incidents. This is a concern for all of us.

Stop off target spraying (SOS NSW) is a grassroots organisation of like-minded people who are concerned about the potential issues our industry faces and the long-term implications. SOS NSW aims to advocate, educate, inform, and enable better pesticide spray practices in NSW to ensure sustainable cropping and a safe community. The group has the mission to engage the agricultural community and encourage practice change that reduces the occurrence of off-target spraying and safer spraying techniques.

SOS NSW is unique! It brings a range of growers, advisors, researchers, advocacy and training organisations and industries together to achieve better coordination and outcomes. I encourage you to get involved and be part of the conversation. To stay up to date with new technologies, products, and initiatives to improve your practice and your bottom line, contact me or the SOS Riverina Valleys secretary Iva Quarisa on riverinaspraydrift@gmail.com

It is the responsibility of all spray applicators to use all tools available to them to be aware of sensitive crops or areas nearby by talking to neighbours and spraying in the right conditions with attention to spray setup to minimise drift.

Satacrop each season indicates where cotton and other sensitive crops are being grown [SataCrop](#) . Make sure your cotton is mapped on SataCrop.

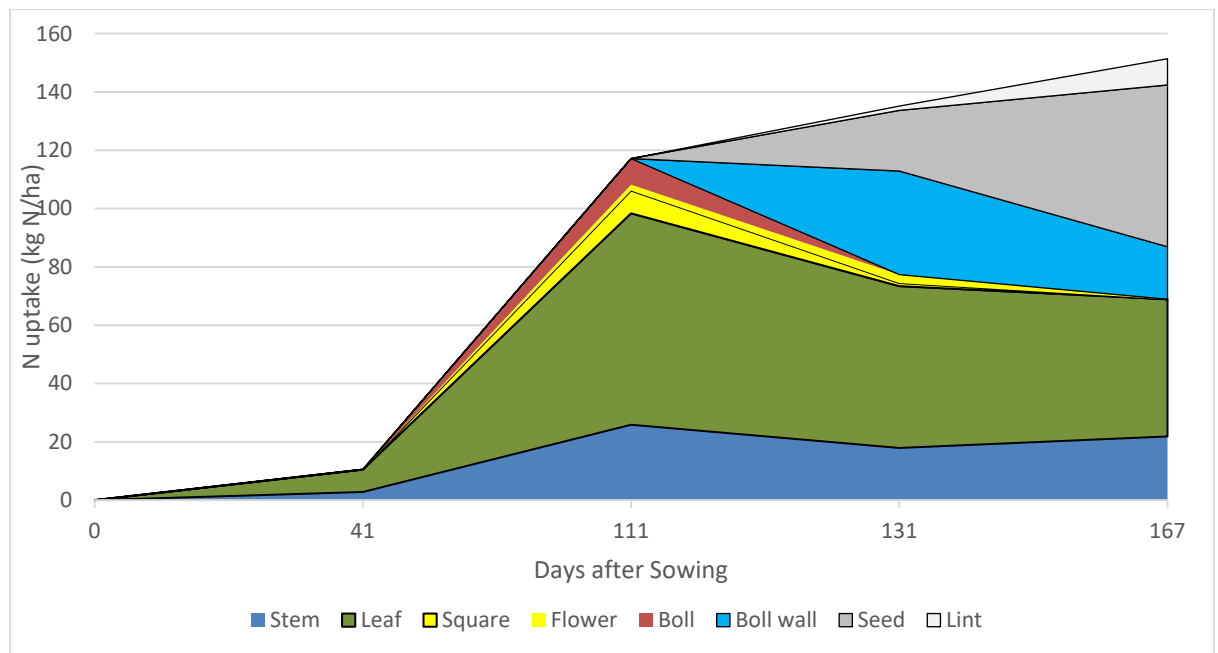
[Cotton Australia | Spraydrift and Satacrop](#)

Key messages from Nutrition and soil health workshop

December 1 Coleambally

- Nitrogen cycle and Carbon cycle are coupled together
- Synchronise N availability with plant uptake
- Over 55 % of N uptake occurs during the flowering period.





Nitrogen uptake by cotton. Source: Jon Baird NSW DPI, CottonInfo Nutrition Technical lead.

- Leaves are cottons biggest N sink which later becomes the biggest source
- From trials a 30/70 split of N is the most efficient
- Applying N at cut out and after cutout does not increase yield it just increases season length.
- Apply P and K early and thoroughly mix in the plant line.
- Irrigation efficiency influences N efficiency.
- Wendy Quayle, Deakin University has a current project to evaluate Nitrogen in bankless layouts looking at N application practices, N uniformity and fertiliser efficiency.
- Soil Health can be complex but it can be simply defined as a soil that performs its given function in a sustainable way.
- Monitor your soil N status through in crop soil tests to squaring, Leaf tests and petiole testing (squaring till 4 weeks post first flower)
- <https://www.backpaddock.com.au/news.php?extend.39>
- Compaction has a direct impact on yields by making the soil bucket smaller.
- Repair of compaction is challenging, takes time and crop rotation.



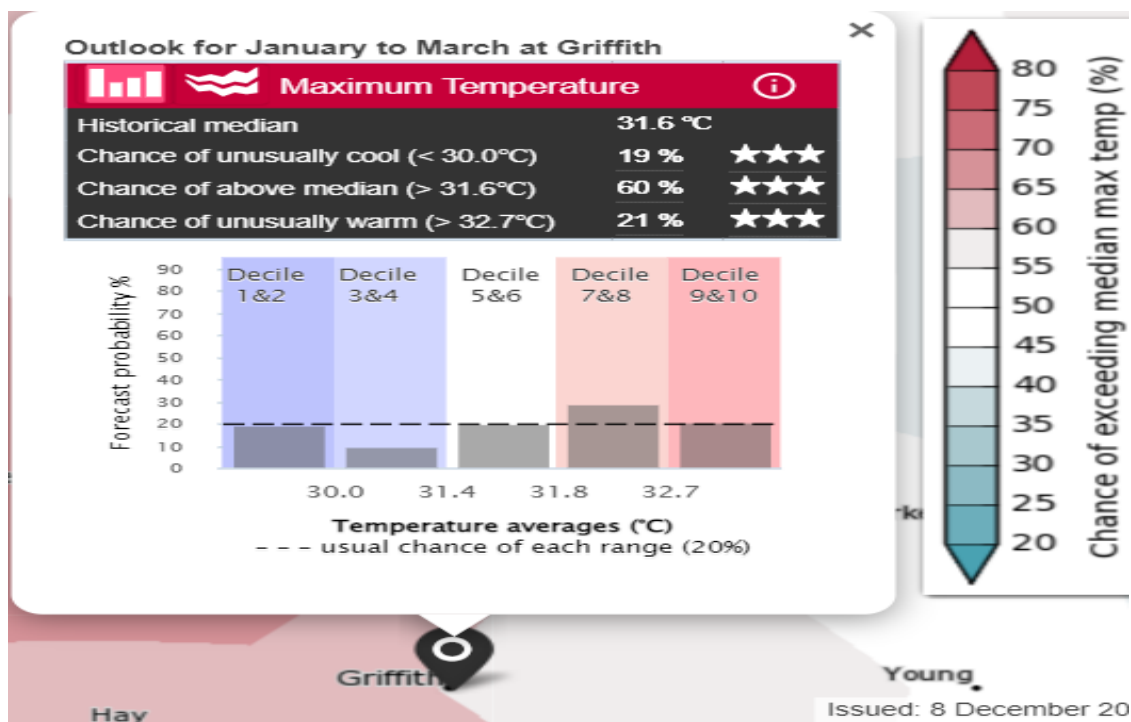
Chris Dowling presenting at the CottonInfo Nutrition and soil health workshop Coleambally

November quiz answer – Where is this? Silverton NSW



December quiz: Where is this located?





The January to March temperature forecast from BOM looks positive

[Max temperature - The chance of above median max temperature for January to March - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/outlooks/)

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas.

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