



Darling Downs

October 2022

Welcome to the October Edition

Well the weather continues to throw challenges at us. Firstly, getting back onto our country and wondering how late we can go with planting. Nutrition management in such a wet year and opportunities to get N on and looking ahead with insect management with such a green bridge over our region this year. CottonInfo are on the front foot with these issues with webinars and workshops coming up, along with great information to share.

Nutrition Webinar – This Friday 11th

CottonInfo are hosting a Nutrition Webinar with Jon Baird, Graeme Schwenke and Chris Dowling on Friday 11th November @ 6am Qld Time. Click here for more information and to register for the webinar

<https://www.backpaddock.com.au/news.php?extend.38>

If you have any cotton nutrition questions that you want answered on the webinar, please send them through to me.

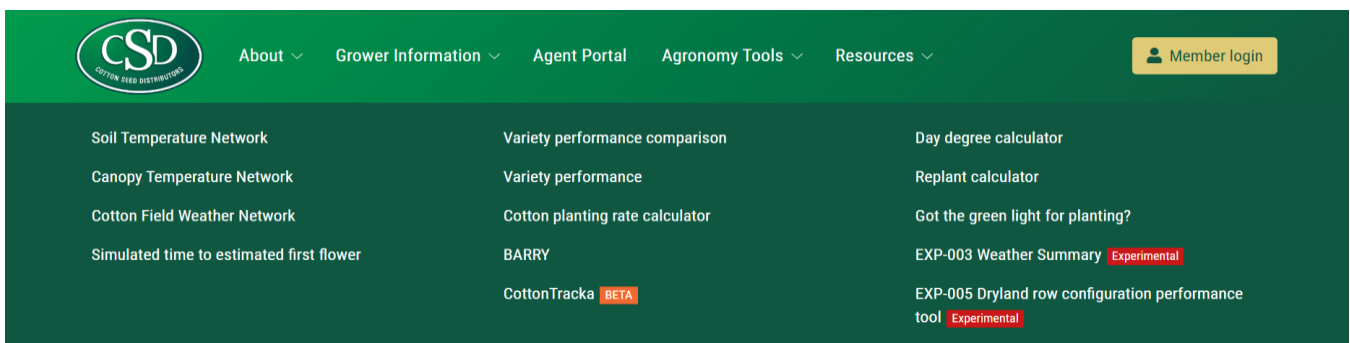
Questions I have received to date include:

- *Specific questions I would have revolve around spreading of urea on soil surface and the risk of significant N loss to volatilisation.*
 - *With regards to spreading of urea on the soil surface and the risk of significant N loss to volatilisation: How much are we risking by surface spreading on our soils in summer. How can we minimise the risk. What's stupid to do?*
- *How do you know you have lost N to denitrification (waterlogging). Do you soil test low areas vs high areas in a paddock?*
- *Poor prep and compaction especially in back-to-back but also some fallows – means it is likely we will have poorer root growth in the subsoil, what impact will this have on NUE?*



- *How can this be managed? Besides stretching water where possible especially in the early stages to try to crack the profile a bit, be interested to see what the thoughts are on how we may address it in-crop.*
- *When should you test the soil? At sowing/other times?*
- *What constitutes high risk vs low risk of denitrification? Soil type, length of wet, amount of N applied, type of N applied, when applied, crop rotation, and what else contributes to loss risk or retain risk?*
- *How do we reduce the risk of nitrogen loss?*
- *How are the coated urea and anhydrous nitrification inhibitors going and what impact have they had commercially?*
- *When and how best to apply N to meet crop demand?*

CSD Cotton Agronomy Tools



CSD has a comprehensive range of tools to assist growers in crop management decisions. These include soil and canopy temperatures, day degree calculators, cotton planting rate calculator, first flower estimate (STEFF), yield estimates at certain crop stages (BARRY), crop development monitoring (CottonTracka) and much more. To access this, you have to be a member. It cost only \$20 per year and once you log in, you can set your browser to remember the log in details making it quick and simple to use. [Click here](#) to join now if you are not a member or simply log on if you are.

Overhead Irrigator Energy Use

With the federal budget forecasting energy price rises of up to 20%, the energy use of irrigation systems may come under scrutiny for some with these systems.

Two tools for ascertaining the energy use and some other performance indicators for centre pivots and travelling irrigators have been produced from a collaborative project with NSW DPI, Vic DPI and Goulburn-Murray Water.

They are Excel spreadsheets which you can download and use to give an indication of whether the performance of your system is reasonable or needs further investigation.

The tools are available from two sources:

1. Irrigation Australia website under eKnowledge ~ Tools and Calculators
 - Pivot Irrigator Energy Tool <https://irrigationaustralia.com.au/libraryviewer?ResourceID=179>
 - Travelling Irrigator Energy Tool: <https://irrigationaustralia.com.au/libraryviewer?ResourceID=180>

2. ExtensionAus website <https://extensionaus.com.au/irrigatingag/energy-assessment-tool-for-centre-pivot-and-travelling-irrigation-systems/>

Bug Checker Training Workshop

CottonInfo is organising a training course for bug checkers in early December in Dalby. This will be presented by the CottonInfo Technical lead for IPM and QLD DAF principal scientist, Paul Grundy as well as Jamie Hopkinson Qld DAF entomologist.

Details for the event will be distributed shortly. Contact me (details at end of newsletter) for further information or to express interest in the workshop.



New Communications lead for CottonInfo

Welcome on board to Megan Woodward who has recently commenced in the role of communications lead for the CottonInfo team. Megan will support the CottonInfo team in providing the latest research to growers and consultants, helping them to achieve best practice.

CottonInfo is a joint initiative of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC), Cotton Australia and Cotton Seed Distributors (CSD). It is a unique industry partnership that aims to communicate the outcomes of research, encourage grower adoption and improve industry practices.

Megan is an experienced communications professional, specialising in agriculture and research, development and extension (RD&E).

Megan has worked as a journalist for ABC Landline and has delivered communications projects for several of CRDC's fellow research and development corporations, including AgriFutures Australia, Meat & Livestock Australia and GRDC. Since May 2020, Megan has worked with one of CRDC's research partners, the University of Southern Queensland, delivering RD&E communications.



Dates for the Diary

- Nutrition Webinar – Friday 11th November - please register using the link in the newsletter
- Cotton Catchup Meeting – Dalby – Tuesday 29th November
- Bug Checker Training Workshop – Dalby – 7th Dec

Annabel Twine

Regional Extension Officer – Darling Downs | CottonInfo

M 0447 176 007 | **E** Annabel.twine@cottoninfo.net.au | **W** www.cottoninfo.com.au

NOTICE: This email and any attachments are confidential to Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorised to use or disclose this email or the attachments or any information in them; please tell the sender immediately by return email that you have received the email in error, and delete the email and its attachments from your computer.



Best Practice

