



# Macquarie bale up

**MAY 2023**

## **PICKING UPDATE**

It has been great to have a dry pick this season with around 65% of the irrigated fields picked to date. Early crops defoliated well, however, the cooler weather and some frosts on the late crops have since slowed down defoliation. In general, most consultants very happy with the way defoliation has gone this year.

Irrigated yields vary from 8-10b/ha, through to 16+b/ha, with the majority of our early picked crops in the 12-14b/ha range. The later planted cotton in the south of the valley is still getting picked so the yield rage reported is very skewed towards the mid to northern parts of the valley.

## **LINT TURN OUT PERCENTAGE (LTO%)**

The LTO% is a simple measurement of the weight ratio of lint to seed cotton in any particular module, field or gin run. For example, if the lint percentage is 40%, 50% may be seed and the remaining 10% trash mainly composed of hulls, sticks, dust, leaf, and a small percentage of motes (cotton fibres attached with immature or broken seeds).

Check out the latest CottonInfo Factsheet which describes how LTO% is calculated and factors affecting it. [Turn Out | CottonInfo](#)

## **CSD “GROWING BETTER COTTON SERIES”**

CSD are changing things up! They are excited to present the 'Growing Better Series' - a series of information sessions, forums and field days focused on providing you with the information you need, when you need it. They include:

- 1) **Seed and Sales Information Sessions which start next week!**
- 2) Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums – August 2023
- 3) Growing Better Field Days held during the 2023/24 cotton season.

CSD’s first Growing Better Series event is the **Seed and Sales Information Sessions**. These sessions have been designed to provide CSD agents, and interested growers, with

information on variety availability, pricing, seed treatments, timelines, and agent requirements.

**Location      Time/Dates**

Warren	11am, Tues 6 June	Warren Services Club
Narromine	4pm, Tues 6 June	Soul Food

These meetings are expected to run for 1.5hrs max.

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Variety trial information will not be available at these meetings. To find the latest information on CSD Variety Trials please go to <https://csd.net.au/variety-trials>. This site continues to be updated as the 2022/23 data becomes available.**

Later in the year, we will hold the **Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums**

These forums will be held across the cotton growing regions of Australia and will provide an opportunity for growers, agronomists, agents, and all members of the industry to gain access to variety trial data, the latest nutrition and disease information, insight into the future of precision ag, plus much more.

**EFFECT OF RESIDUAL HERBICIDES APPLIED AT CAMERA SPRAY RATES DURING FALLOW ON THE SUBSEQUENT COTTON CROP.**



**Graham Charles, Eric Koetz & Jeff Werth NSW DPI & QDAF**  
**Work supported by CRDC.**



Camera sprayers have increased in popularity with overall big reductions in chemical use in fallow fields. High chemical rates can be applied to individual weeds when a number of nozzles fire. This can have residual chemical carryover effects on the following cotton crop.

Herbicide	Active	Group	Rate
Balance	isoxaflutole	27	100g/ha
Sharpen	safufenacil	14	34g/ha
Starane Advanced	Fluroxypyr	4	900ml/ha
Valor	flumioxazin	14	140g/ha
2,4-D amine	2,4-D amine	4	1.6 L/ha
Voraxor	safufenacil + trifludimoxazin	14	240 ml/ha

All herbicides were applied at 1X, 2X, 4X and 8X rates on 30 Jul 2021.  
Cotton planted 7 Oct 2021, Sicot 714B3F.

### Seedling damage assessment 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

Herbicide	Plant stand	Plant size
Balance 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	Reduced
Sharpen 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	Reduced
Starane Advanced 4X & 8X	Reduced	Reduced
Valor – all rates	-	-
2,4-D amine	-	-
Voraxor	Reduced at 2,4,8 X	Reduced

### Yield and Maturity

Herbicide	Yield	Maturity
Balance 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	delayed
Sharpen 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	delayed
Starane 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	delayed
Valor – all rates	-	delayed

2,4-D amine	-	-
Voraxor – all rates	Reduced at 2,4,8 X	delayed

### Take home message:

- Be conservative with residual herbicides, especially at high (camera sprayer) rates.
  - Often when two or more nozzles fire the rates are considerably higher than the already high permit rate.
- Be wary of combinations of herbicides, they may have reduced safety margins.
- The more herbicides, the more chances for damage.
- Be aware of potential additive effects when using residuals in summer crop after applying residual herbicides in the winter phase and vice versa.
  - Some interactions can linger longer in the soil.

## UPCOMING XTENDFLEX COTTON SPRAY APPLICATOR TRAINING SESSIONS

As part of Bayer's commitment to whole of system stewardship, the spray applicator training will be a requirement for:

- Technology User Agreement (TUA) signers;
- **All on-farm staff responsible for spray applications (including mixing/handling); and**
- **Any spray contractor that applies XtendFlex Cotton System products over-the-top (OTT) of XtendFlex cotton varieties, once approved by the APVMA.**



Each training session covers theory and practical topics. Local courses are listed below. For a full list of course locations and dates, please see the [Bayer website](#). Participants need to register for workshops and can do so from the Bayer website or by clicking [here](#).

[Wednesday 23 August, 2023](#)   [Narromine, NSW](#)   [8:45AM – 2:30PM](#)

[Thursday 24 August, 2023](#)   [Warren, NSW](#)   [8:45AM – 2:30PM](#)

[Monday 28 August, 2023](#)   [Condobolin, NSW](#)   [8:45AM – 2:30PM](#)



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Best Practice



## SHIFT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS UNCONFERENCE

The CRDC-funded action research project SHIFT: Delivering best practice for management of future skills is supporting cotton growing enterprises to identify and implement strategies, tools and resources to better attract, develop and retain their workforce.

We know there are good practices growers are already doing, and part of this project is trying to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and encourage grower led discussion on how growers and farm managers practically work on the 'people' part of their businesses.

**On June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, we are holding an online grower/farm manager-only unconference via zoom.**

**There's 4 sessions to choose from – and we've tried to structure these to fit into your daily workflow - come to 1 or as many as you like**

What's an unconference? – Unlike traditional conferences where a program is designed separate from the attendees needs and often delivered in lecture-type talks, an unconference is centred on the participants and involves discussion and workshops.

We are very grateful for the growers we have brainstormed and talked with so far in this SHIFT Project, you have all helped shaped this unconference ensuring the topics will be really relevant, practical and enterprise focussed.

Our program is as follows:

### 6th June

12pm – 1pm: Grower Panel 1 on Adapting to address workforce challenges and workforce engagement.

*Hear Rob Davies and James Traill discuss their workforce challenges and solutions, and how they've adapted over the last few years. A highlight of our chat with James so far has been insights he's offered on the challenges of people on mobile phones in machinery!*

1pm – 2pm: Grower Panel 2 on Wellbeing at work.

*Hear Renee Anderson and Aaron Kiely discuss their views and approaches to wellbeing at work for themselves, their teams, and their community of growers in the Central Highlands.*

### 7th June:

10am – 11:30am Workshop 1: Developing video training resources to support new entrants to learn (and current team members to revise) on the job skills

*We've all got a video camera in our pocket these days, so why don't we use it to save us on repetitive training tasks? You might have seen Troy Smith getting around delivering cotton picker training? Along with Renee Anderson, they'll be delivering a workshop on making training videos to develop new/existing team members skills*

12:30pm – 2:00pm Workshop 2: Wellbeing at work workshop with Chantal Corish

*Hear from CRDC PhD candidate and rural psychologist Chantal Corish on strategies for ensuring your team protect themselves from burnout by developing a culture of wellbeing at work. Practical, evidence-based and adoptable for the farm business.*

Pilot resources developed through the project to support best practice management for future skills in cotton growing enterprises will also be disseminated throughout each of these sessions.

Register your interest in attending here: <https://bit.ly/SHIFUnconference>

Nicole McDonald, Jo Eady, Amy Cosby, and Chantal Corish

The SHIFT Project Team

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

6 June:	CSD Growing Better – Seed and Sales information session Warren 11am
6 June:	CSD Growing Better – Seed and Sales Information session Narromine 4pm
14&15 June:	MDBA River Reflections Conference Narrabri
<b>1 – 3 August</b>	<b><a href="#">Weed smart week Dubbo convention centre</a> 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 8 am – 1 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>
<b>2 – 3 August</b>	<b>The cotton collective and trade show @ Toowoomba showgrounds.</b>

## Regards

Amanda Thomas

Regional Extension Officer - Macquarie and Upper Lachlan Valleys | CottonInfo

M 0417 226 411 | E [amanda.thomas@cottoninfo.net.au](mailto:amanda.thomas@cottoninfo.net.au) | W [www.cottoninfo.com.au](http://www.cottoninfo.com.au)



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