



the **cotton wrap**

January 2021

Sporadic storms have been a huge theme of our 2020-21 cotton season, which has seen various hail events throughout the valley. Some fields have received three separate hail events so far this season.

Photo on this page is of a crop where we had Cotton Retention Trial that we I was working on with Paul Grundy around Wee Waa which had its 3rd hail event three weeks ago.



These weather events have contributed to an early onset of verticillium wilt throughout the valley, seen as early as first flower in many crops throughout the Namoi.

February and March are starting to fill up with field days, so please keep an eye out for many upcoming events.



MICE DAMAGE - Mice are currently a significant threat to crops in the western regions. See photos below, provided by Gus McCrae from Nutrien, Wee Waa.



Chewing damage which has caused the main terminal to snap off.

More chewing damage





More mice activity through the crop.

MOUSE-OFF PERMIT IN COTTON

Follow Restraints, Directions for use, Critical Use Comments and Withholding Period as in the permit

RESTRAINTS:

DO NOT apply bait to bare ground (including fallow where there is no vegetative cover).

DO NOT apply bait in a trail.

DO NOT apply bait if heavy rain is imminent.

DO NOT place baits in areas liable to flooding.

DO NOT apply to the outer 50 m of crop or within 50 m of native vegetation. A 50 m buffer zone in crop must be employed to reduce risks to birds and other non-target animals.

DO NOT apply bait unless monitoring of mouse numbers indicates the potential for crop damage of economic significance.

Directions for Use:

Crop Pest Rate Cotton (post emergent treatment only) Mice 1 kg/ha

Critical Use Comments:

- Apply by aerial application or accurately calibrated ground application equipment.
- DO NOT reapply for 14 days after application.
- When available, sterilised grain bait products should be used.

Withholding Period:

DO NOT harvest crop or allow livestock to graze baited area for 14 days after application.

USEFUL LINKS:

GRDC Mouse Control

Please see link to GRDC – mouse control resources: <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/resources/mouse-control>

Mouse Alert

There is also a Mouse Alert website where we can record mouse activity:

<https://www.feralscan.org.au/mousealert/>

SCARY HISTORICAL VIDEO:

Mouse Plague on the news – Gunnedah 1984

<https://www.facebook.com/GemDigitalVideo/videos/1152245128199893>

A FOREWARNING of what may be heading our way – From Janelle Montgomery in Moree

“LOCUSTS are a significant threat to crops in the Moree Region.

PLEASE look out for locusts on your farm and report any sightings to NW Local Land Services (Toni Jericho M. 0407 603 855 E. toni.jericho@lls.nsw.gov.au) or you can call 1800680244 or report online using this link: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts



Numbers continue to increase, and damage has been reported on cotton crops. We also have the threat of this generation reproducing ([locust lifecycle](#)) and threatening our winter crops. We must act now.

I was sent this photo from a local consultant this week showing significant locust damage in cotton.”



This photo was from another local consultant. Locusts were seen coming out of fallow country and moving into the cotton, so both the fallow and cotton were sprayed, with an effective kill. That number of locusts could have caused a lot of damage!

If you are not concerned yet check out this video on twitter that Moree Agronomist Casey Onus posted: https://twitter.com/ONUS_Agronomy/status/1353458705090502656?s=20



These photos were taken from North West Local Land Services aerial surveillance north of Moree (15th January). Banding locusts in fallowed paddocks (cereal regrowth since rain).



is a joint initiative of



Best Practice



Under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, landholders have a legal obligation to report any of the three declared plague locust species (Australian plague, spur-throated and migratory locusts) to their Local Land Services office.

Landholders also have an obligation to eradicate locusts on their property.

Plague locust species, if not controlled, cause significant damage to crops and pastures by consuming all in their path.

It's vital that ground-control activities for locusts are carried out at the banding stage ([third instar](#))

Useful resources:

- The current locust situation is reported on the Australian Government Dept Ag website here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/current>
- <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/about>
<https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/pests,-weeds-and-diseases/pest-control/pest-species-control/locusts>

CSD FIELD DAY



COTTON SEED DISTRIBUTORS AND LOWER NAMOI CGA FIELD DAY

MARCH	📅 Tuesday, 2 March 2021
2	📍 CSD Farms, Culgoora Road, Wee Waa
	📄 Further details to come

For more information on this upcoming field day contact
Bob Ford on 0428 950 015 or **Elsie Hudson** on 0456 914 637



Lower Namoi Cotton
Growers' Association Inc.



🌐 www.csd.net.au

📘 /CottonSeedDistributors

🐦 @csd_cotton



KAREN KIRKBY

Some of you may or may not be aware that our treasured Karen Kirkby was diagnosed with Stage 2 Invasive Lobular Carcinoma, in June. Karen is an extremely valued member of the cotton industry and has done fantastic work especially in the disease space. Her dear friend Allison has vowed to not let her go bald alone and is hoping to raise \$10,000 to shave her head to go towards the costs of Karen's treatment.

Please see below for the GoFundMe [Link](#). If you did want to donate but did not want to use this platform, please contact us as we have an account set up for this reason.

Thank you.

UPCOMING DATES

Upper Namoi CGA Exec Meeting, Gunnedah – 2nd February

Lower Namoi CGA Exec Meeting, Wee Waa – 3rd February

GROW Course, Moree – 8th Feb & 31st May

Bayer Roundup Ready Xtend Crop system demo day, "Locharba" Research Station – 10th February

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Field Day, "Keytah" Moree – 10th February

Xtend Flex Field Walk, "Hazeldean" Merah North – 25th February, 3pm

Cotton Seed Distributors & Lower Namoi CGA Field Day, CSD Farms – 2nd March

Cotton Pest Management Course, Moree – 10th – 11th February

AgSkilled Spray workshop, Wee Waa – August 10 & workplace visits August 11-13

Please also keep a look out for some local Canopy Temperature Sensor field walks in your area. We are planning to have one in March where Hiz Jamali will give an update on this year's field at Battery Hill. We will hopefully get the opportunity to visit fields at Burren Junction and Walgett.

Cheers,

Elsie Hudson

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