



the cotton wrap

What's been happening?

With the 2022 Australian Cotton Conference done and dusted and planting just around the corner, I am well overdue for another Newsletter.

It is no secret that the 2022 cotton season was drawn out longer than anticipated and hoped. The gins are still running flat out, and paddock prep is ongoing in between continuous rain events. There are a few planters hitting the paddocks in other valleys where they haven't received the rainfall. Given the moisture and soil temperatures in this valley, it looks like we are a few weeks off.

Looking ahead to the 2023 cotton season

Check now for soil pests.

The countdown is on as we head towards planting for the 2022/2023 season. Now is a good time to start making sure we are doing everything we can to establish the best possible conditions for the crop.

With wetter conditions in most areas, soil pests may be more abundant compared to recent years – so do not assume these pests are not present in your ground.



Figure 1. Wireworm. Photo: L. Wilson

Significant cotton areas, both irrigated and dryland, are expected to be planted in most valleys, so now is the time to start checking fields for soil pest abundance prior to planting.

For tips on how to check your fields, head to this [article](#) from CottonInfo.

Weather Outlook

The latest CottonInfo [Moisture Manager](#), released on 19/09/2022, outlines the outlook for the Spring months. La Niña conditions are expected to peak in November and then fall away thereafter. Flooding continues in many places across the valley. A reminder to please keep safe and not drive through flood waters.

Rainfall Totals for September (sourced from Bureau of Meteorology 26/09/2022).

- Bourke: 49.8mm
- Walgett: 110.8mm
- Wee Waa: 136.7mm
- Narrabri: 132.6mm
- Gunnedah: 155.4mm
- Quirindi: 56.5mm

FastStart Program for Planting – Do It Once, Do It Right!

Get your cotton off to a ‘FastStart’ using these tips for planting.

1. Use CSD’s [Traffic Light System](#) to determine if planting conditions are optimum
2. Soil temperature at 14°C and rising for 7 days following planting (**see example on next page**)
3. Plant into a firm, well-structured, well-prepared seed bed
4. Make sure your planter is ready, well maintained, calibrated, ensure planting speed, depth and pressure are correct. Download the [Planter Checklist](#) here.
5. Check seed quality information using QR code on the bag for germination results and seeds/kg information.

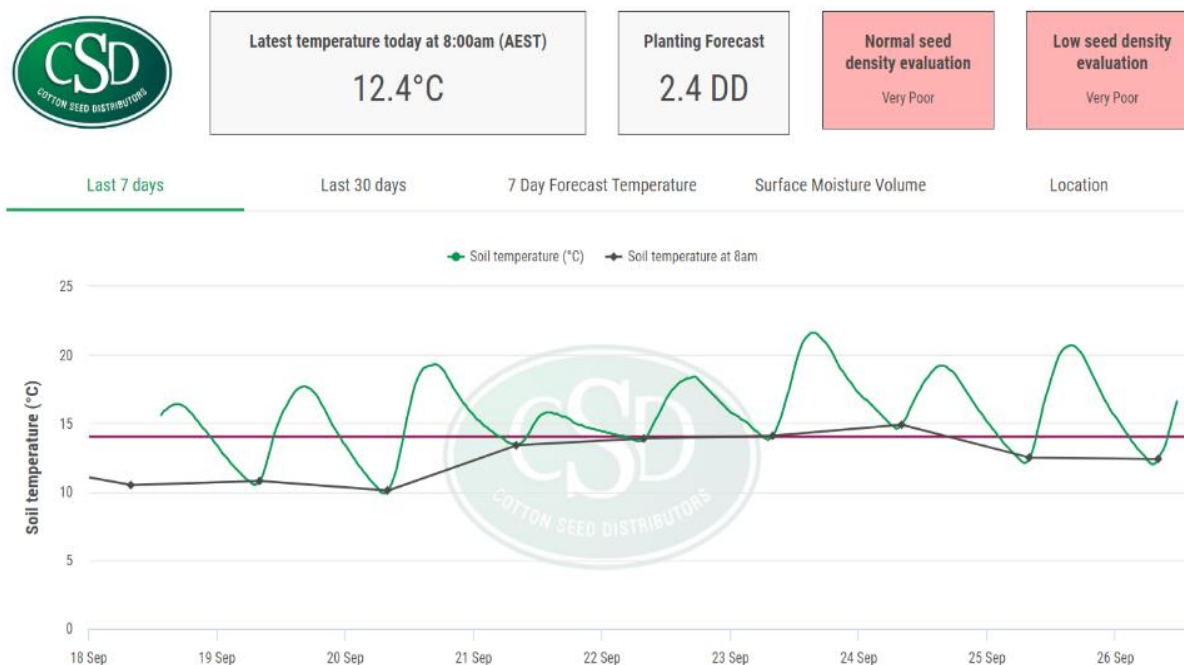
Planting the cotton crop is one of the most important operations on the farm. It sets the standard for the entire season. There are some key considerations that will help ensure that it is a once only task.

	RED LIGHT	AMBER LIGHT	GREEN LIGHT
Soil temperature at 10 cm depth above 14°C at 8am (AEST)	✗	✓✗	✓
Forecast average temps for the week following planting on a rising plane	✗	✗✓	✓
	STOP!	STEADY	GO!

Figure 2. Traffic Light System available on CSD website

The snapshot below was taken on 26/09/2022 and shows weather data from Watermark on the Liverpool Plains. Shown here is the soil temperature at 8am of 12.4°C. Planting forecast for the next 7 days 2.4 DD. Optimum conditions would be 50DD. Therefore, planting conditions are determined as 'very poor'. Any questions relating to this, contact your local CSD Extension and Development Agronomist.

Watermark



- Planting can begin when soil temperatures reach 14°C (red line in graph) at 8am (AEST) for three consecutive days.
- Planting can begin when there is a rising plane of temperature forecasted above 14°C for the next 7 days.

Interpreting the Planting Forecast

The planting forecast guide provides an indication of the potential day degree (1532) accumulation based upon the proceeding 7 day forecast.

Normal seed density	Low seed density	Evaluation	
<= 20 DD	<= 29 DD	Very Poor	
20 - 40 DD	29 - 46 DD	Poor/Caution	Warrants extreme caution as a delay in emergence is likely and may impact upon germination percentages and/or exacerbate seedling disease or soil insect attack. Management intervention is encouraged.
40 - 50 DD	46 - 50 DD	Marginal/Caution	Considered marginal however ensure other planting parameters and conditions are ideal. Ensuring a rising plane of temperatures, monitor and minimise cold shock events in the next week. Cotton will likely take greater than 7 days to emerge.
> 50 DD	> 50 DD	Good	In excess of 50 DD is considered as the requirement for ideal germination and emergence.

Normal seed density varieties are Sicot 714B3F, Sicot 7118RF and Sicot 812RRF. The rest of CSD's varieties are considered low density seed varieties. This is a guide only to assist growers and consultants of conditions and enable adjustments to planting rates to compensate if the need requires, it is not intended as an accurate tool as it is based on third party temperature forecast and should be utilised solely as a guide to refine the decision making process.

Disclaimer: By using this information provided by Cotton Seed Distributors you accept all risks and responsibilities associated with any losses, damages, costs or other related consequences. Please remember that the data is only a guide to soil temperature trends in your region. You should monitor your own fields prior to planting.

Figure 3. Weather data available through the FastStart Soil Temperature Network.

Disease Update

Late season disease surveys were completed in the Namoi, Walgett and Bourke. We returned to the same fields as those sampled in early-season surveys. Unfortunately, early results indicated the presence of multiple diseases. Alternaria leaf spot, fusarium boll rot, Verticillium wilt and Eutypella wilt all showed up across the region. Below are some comments from NSW DPI Cotton Disease Pathologist, Duy Le regarding the disease we encountered late last season.

Namoi – Verticillium wilt was detected in most surveyed fields, but it appears that the infection was a bit later in the season, so most crops could still yield reasonably. Boll rot was prevalent again this year, especially in big thick crops. Bolls were mostly infected with Sclerotinia and Fusarium boll rot (not the same as Fusarium leaf wilt species). Alternaria leaf spot was also common, but most infection was mild. Some suspected Fusarium leaf wilt was also detected this year in the valley but pending further confirmation. Eutypella wilt (reoccurring wilt) was detected in three new fields with no known history.

Walgett/Bourke – Low level of wilt diseases such as Fusarium wilt, Verticillium wilt and Eutypella wilt were observed in the surveyed fields. Eutypella infected plants were detected for the first time in Bourke area. This indicates the prevalent distribution of this Eutypella disease across NSW. Low level Alternaria leaf spot. Most surveyed crops were very big, so boll rot was common and at relatively high levels.



Duy Le, Cotton Disease Pathologist, NSW DPI

M: 0439 941 542

E: duy.le@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Given the disease pressure last season, the likelihood of high inoculum for this season is high. Remember to remain vigilant when it comes to disease on farm this season. If you would like to know more, please reach out to Duy or myself.

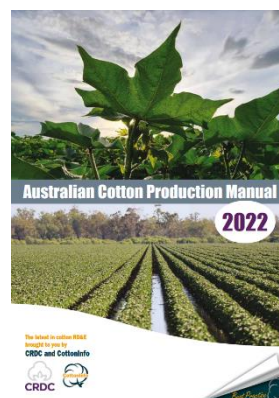
CottonInfo Update

CottonInfo has recently appointed Louise Gall to Technical Lead in Irrigation, and Kim Stevens to the REO team in Central Queensland. Lou may be a familiar face to some, and we look forward to working with her across the Namoi valley. Welcome to the team ladies!

CSD Update

At the Australian Cotton Conference, Sam Lee (CSD Extension and Development Agronomist from Central Queensland) gave a presentation summarising the importance of getting planting and establishment done right. His presentation **Well Sown is Half Grown** can be found [here](#).

Sam and James Quinn (CSD General Manager – Growth and Development) wrote an article on *Crop Establishment* for the 2022 Australian Cotton Production Manual. Download your copy [here](#) and head to page 89 for tips on planter set up, seed quality information and more!



Did you hear CSD has produced a new podcast called **Cotton Yarns**? Available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify, the most recent episode [Best Practice Planting](#) and others are worth a listen!



Other episodes available:

[Do's and Don'ts of Back to Back Cotton](#)

[Planter Maintenance](#)

[Black Root Rot in Cotton](#)

And more!

Cotton Grower Associations

A reminder to get in touch with your local CGA to keep up to date and involved in various aspects of the industry. There are a few AGM's and meetings coming up ahead of the cotton season so keep an eye out for those. Add yourself to the contact lists to see updates on local field days, meetings, and events. Find your local CGA contact [here](#).

Crop Check Reports

Last season I sent out crop check reports for the Namoi, as well as Walgett & Bourke. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in providing information for these reports. If you did not receive any, please reach out to ensure you are on the mailing list. I will be creating these reports again this season. Please get in touch if you would like to participate in sending in some information.

Lastly, it was great to meet and catch up with so many of you at the Australian Cotton Conference, and I look forward to the chance again soon. As always, please reach out to me with any questions/concerns.

All the best for a great season ahead!

Emma

Emma Lambeth

Regional Extension Officer | Namoi, Walgett & Bourke | CottonInfo

M 0455 525 155 |

E emma.lambeth@cottoninfo.net.au |

W www.cottoninfo.com.au



Disclaimer - © Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd 2021. This information is provided as a 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 document or from any errors or omissions in this document.