



the cotton thread

Border Rivers, St George and Dirranbandi

June 2023

Season Update

Picking across the Balonne and MacIntyre has largely been completed bar a few late crops. Growers are waiting for space in the gin yards to free up so that modules that remain on-farm can be delivered for processing. Indications continue to suggest good yields and quality for the bulk of the irrigated crop.

With most farms undertaking post-harvest management of the crop and pests, it is timely to review some of the key points outlined in the [Australian Cotton Production Manual 2023](#), pages 138-140, and also in the recent [CottonInfo enewsletter](#).

- What's new - AquaTill for crop destruction in dryland crops
- Preventing Pest Carryover – pupae bust, control volunteers and alternative hosts (important this year because of high end of season aphid pressure and presence of Cotton Bunchy Top virus), control green bridges
- Using crop rotations and cover crops – disease breaks, weed management
- Managing cotton stubble and residues – important differences for Fusarium and Verticillium management.
- Crop destruction – mulch and root cut, ploughing, “pull, rake and burn” (be aware of nutrient/OM/pathogen movement), slashing

What's On:

- 20 July: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Mungindi
21 July: MVFDC Golf Day, Goondiwindi
21 July: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, St George
26-27 July: [CCA Seminar](#), Narrabri
1-3 August: [Cotton Collective](#), Toowoomba



1-3 August: [WeedSmart Conference](#), Dubbo
 10 August: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Moree
 11 August: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Goondiwindi
 16 August: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, St George
 23 August: Growing Better – Mastering Cotton Forum, St George
 24 August: Growing Better – Mastering cotton Forum, Goondiwindi
 12 Sept: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Goondiwindi
 13 Sept: Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Moree

Xtendflex Cotton

XtendFlex cotton is the first cotton trait developed to be tolerant to over-the-top applications of glyphosate, dicamba and glufosinate-ammonium herbicides, providing flexibility to manage a wider-spectrum of difficult-to-control and resistant weeds in-crop. There will be a good opportunity to have a look at the XtendFlex varieties coming through the system next season with a permit for 50,000 ha to be grown. A full program of variety trials and ambassador fields are planned for next season. Variety descriptions and CSIRO trial data is provided here by Dr Warwick Stiller, CSIRO Research group Leader, Cotton breeding.

LINE	TRAITS	YIELD (rel. to Sicot 746B3F)		LP	LEN	STR	MIC	VRR	FRR
		Irrigated	Dryland						
CSX1049B3XF		99	106	41.5	1.24	31.6	4.3	92	103
CSX4133B3XF		101	101	44.1	1.23	29.9	4.2	110	125
CSX5439B3XF		99	102	42.5	1.29	30.1	3.9	102	122
CSX3141B3XF	CBT	103	102	43.5	1.26	31.5	4.2	118	139
CSX4389B3XF	OT, CBT	104	103	44.1	1.24	31.0	3.8	121	116

Note: The above trial data is from previous seasons across all sites. More trial data will become available from this season on the [CSD website](#) – to access data other than yield, you will need to be a [CSD member](#).

CSX1049B3XF: New germplasm, normal leaf, Normal density, often relatively compact determinate growth (though not always), has performed consistently well in dryland and sometimes in Southern irrigated. May also have fit in Northern Australia (Note: lower disease rank than other lines)

CSX4133B3XF: Full season, normal leaf, low density, broad adaptation, overall performance similar to Sicot 748B3F.

CSX5438B3XF: Full season, normal leaf, low density, has performed best from the Macquarie north. Need to be aware of the lower micronaire.

CSX3141B3XF: New germplasm, normal leaf, low density, resistant to CBT, has shown broad adaption, appears to have increased resistance to verticillium wilt (but need more data).

CSX4389B3XF: New germplasm, okra leaf, low density, resistant to CBT, broad adaptation but has performed best in high yielding full season sites, appears to have increase verticillium resistance (but need more data), need to be aware of lower micronaire.

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](#).

Thursday 20 July, 2023	Mungindi, NSW	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Friday 21 July, 2023	St George, NSW	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Thursday 10 August, 2023	Moree, NSW	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Friday 11 August, 2023	Goondiwindi, QLD	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Wednesday 16 August, 2023	St George, QLD	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Tuesday 12 September, 2023	Goondiwindi, QLD	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Wednesday 13 September, 2023	Moree, NSW	8:45AM – 2:30PM



Seasonal Outlook

The [CottonInfo Moisture manager for June](#) continues to support last month's move towards drier conditions (approaching El Nino) for the coming months July to September (below). The drier outlook is supported by the BoM outlook for the same period which is suggesting a 50:50 or less chance of exceeding median rainfall for the period for the Balonne and MacIntyre regions.

Source	Temp Forecast	Precipitation outlook				
		Emerald	Sth Q'ld	N-NSW	C-NSW	S-NSW
ACCESS-S	Hot	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier
UK Met	Warmer	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier
IRI NMME	Cooler	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier
ECMWF	Warmer	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier
CMCC	Warmer	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier
JMA	Warmer	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier	Drier

Figure 1: July to September seasonal outlook from CottonInfo Moisture Manager

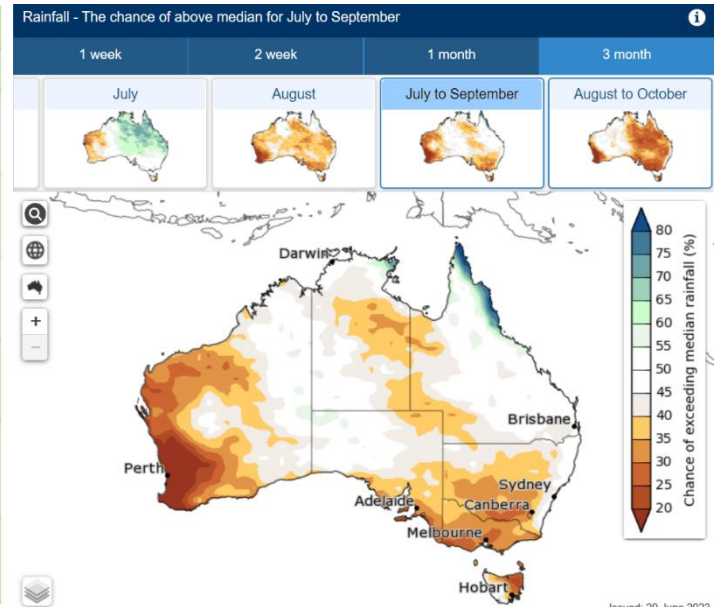


Fig 2: Bureau of Meteorology Seasonal Outlook for Moisture for July to September. These outlooks can be found at [Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

CottonInfo Program Manager Takes on New Role

After nine years as Program Manager for the Australian cotton industry's joint extension program – CottonInfo – Warwick Waters will finish in the role at the end of June.

From 1 July he will be taking on a role with CRDC as Innovation Process Advisor, assisting in the initial implementation of the new CRDC Strategic RD&E Plan 2023-28. CRDC will be seeking to appoint an extension specialist to support the CottonInfo team shortly.

More detail can be found on the [CRDC website](#).



CSD News

[Cotton Yarns Podcast](#) – In the April podcast, CSD extension agronomist, Angus Marshall talks to QDAF principal pathologist Dr Linda Smith about Fusarium Wilt. You will need to be a [CSD member](#) to listen to these.



New Chief Executive Officer appointed – Dr Ian Taylor (CRDC Executive Director) has been appointed to the role and is due to commence in September 2023. Ian will replace outgoing Managing Director Peter Graham.

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. The Seed and Sales Information sessions have concluded and in August we start to move onto:

- 1) Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums – August 2023
- 2) Growing Better Field Days held during the 2023/24 cotton season.

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.

CRDC news



- Finalists announced: 2023 CRDC Chris Lehmann Young Achiever Award
- Applications open for the Australian Rural leadership Program
- CottonInfo Program manager takes on new role
- Winter edition of Spotlight magazine is out
- Grant to enhance cotton's data collection and reporting
- Growers invited to SHIFT workforce solutions unconference

For more details on these, click [here](#).



Cotton Australia News



- Applications open for the Australian Rural leadership Program
- Cotton Collective, 1-3 August, Toowoomba

[Cotton Matters](#)

- Cotton Collective Awards Dinner – Tickets selling fast
- Cotton Australian represented at Better Cotton Conference in Amsterdam
- Farm Business Resilience boosted by new initiative
- Key Cotton event on human rights
- Renee Anderson releases her Nuffield scholarship report
- Helpers Wanted for the EKKA
- Regional Wellbeing survey still open
- Women in leadership - scholarships available
- Impact of Inflation on farm
- Australian Rural leadership foundation – webinar invite
- Farewell Kelly Becker – CA representative for the Dawson

For more information on these, click [here](#).

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