



**Information** when you need it



# the **cotton tale**

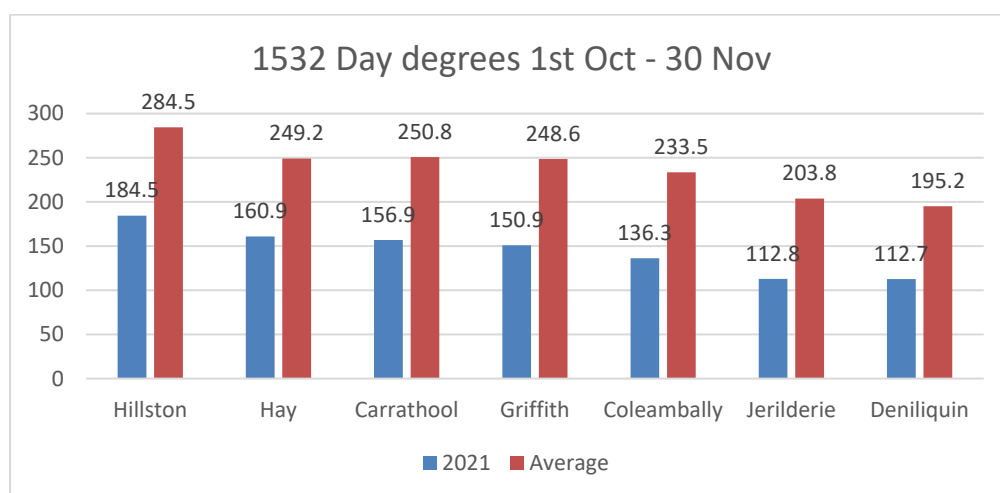
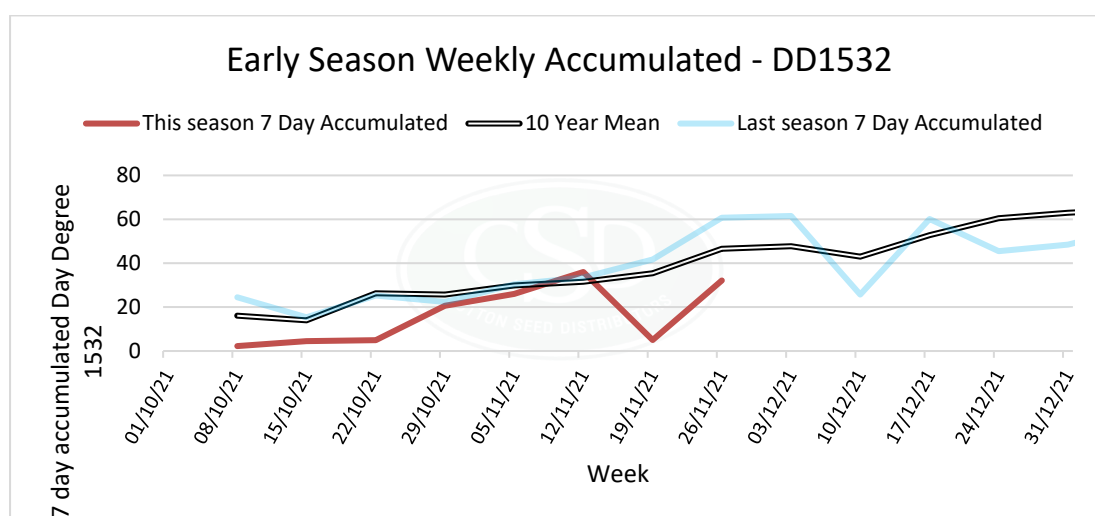
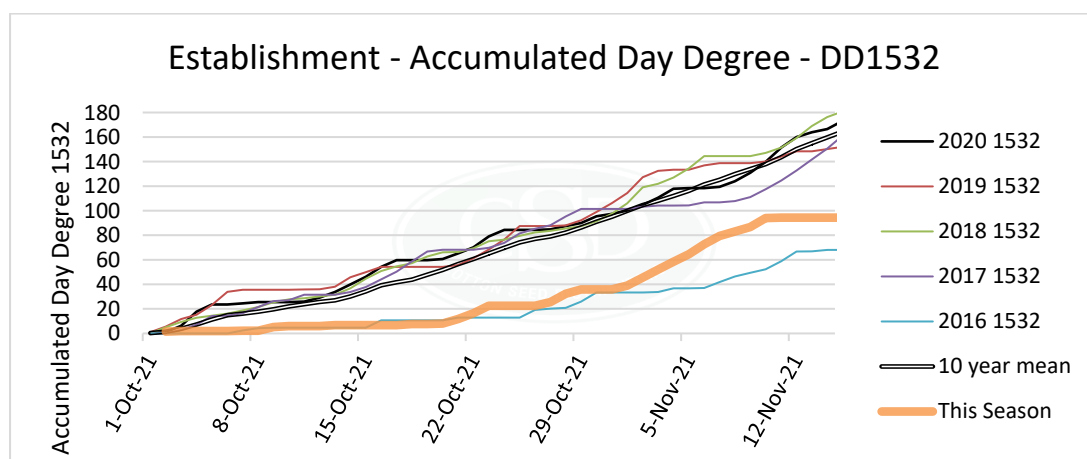
**Late November/Early December 2021**



This season I will be tracking the progress of Brian the cotton plant! He lives at IREC field station and got watered up on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. He is from the Sicot 746B3F tribe and is now 45 days old and has 5 true leaves. He has had the coldest start in the last 10 years with 22 cold shocks (average 19) and an average temperature of 18 °C. If he is a naughty boy, he will be brought back into line with a low rate of mepiquat chloride. Follow the life of Brian on twitter @KokeeffeK @IRECNSW @CottonInfoAust



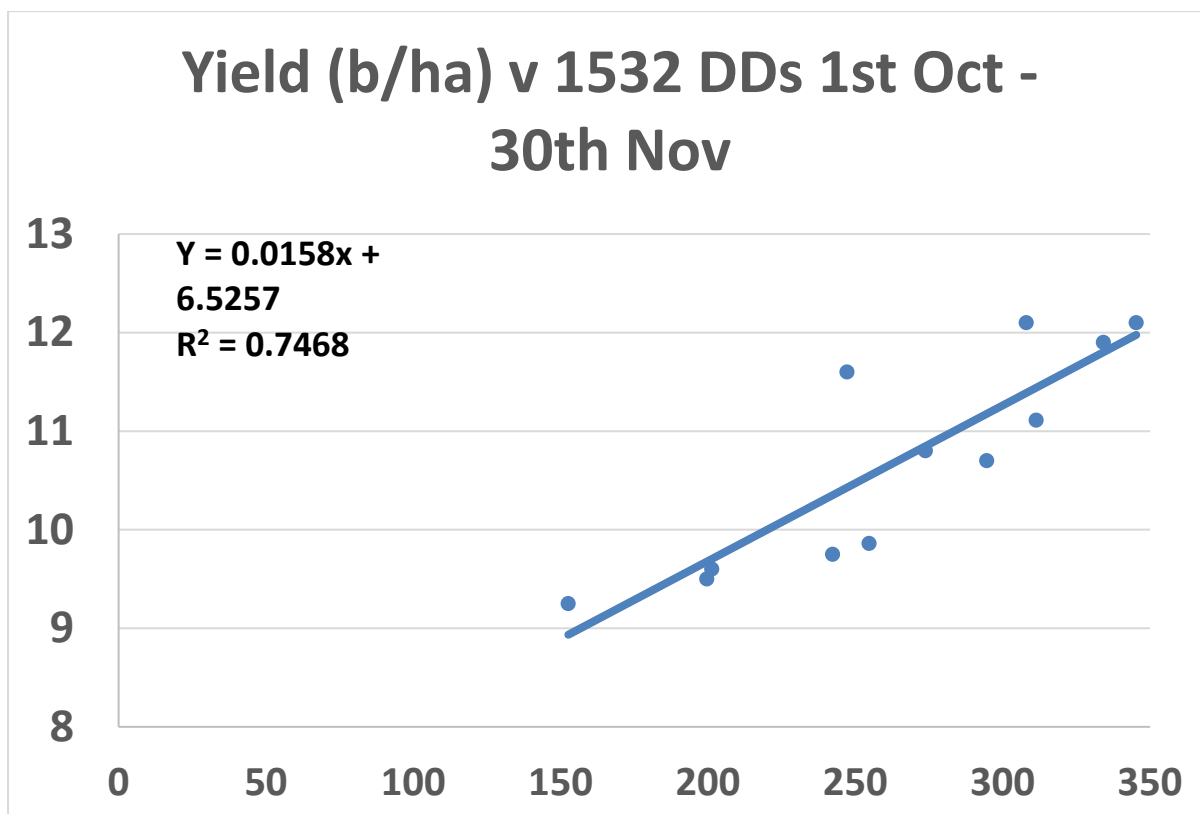
Griffith Airport, 30<sup>th</sup> November Total 150.9 (61% of average)



Seasonal Day Degree and historical data sourced from Cotton Seed Distributors Day Degree Calculator found at [www.csd.net.au/ddc](http://www.csd.net.au/ddc). For more specific day degree and crop management detail for your farm, field and variety check out CottonTracka® at [www.cottontracka.com.au](http://www.cottontracka.com.au)

## Crop check 27<sup>th</sup> November (compiled report from 10 advisors)

<b>Crop Stage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 7 nodes depending on planting date and re sows</li> <li>• 4 cm to 15 cm tall</li> <li>• Slow but starting to pick up now</li> </ul>
<b>Irrigation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most crops were watered up in early to mid-October</li> <li>• Some got a rain strike and have not been irrigated yet</li> <li>• First irrigations out to 50 DAS possibly 60 days</li> </ul>
<b>Insects/Beneficial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thrips have been variable with some fields treated</li> <li>• Overall minimal insect pressure</li> <li>• Good beneficial numbers of lady bugs</li> <li>• Wireworm pressure high this season. Thimet working well</li> </ul>
<b>Weeds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most crops have had one glyphosate spray</li> <li>• Pre-emergent sprays have worked well this season</li> <li>• Some fields with problem wireweed, fleabane and ryegrass</li> </ul>
<b>Disease</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cool conditions favoring seedling diseases</li> <li>• Wind damage reducing leaf area</li> <li>• B2B fields have high alternaria pressure</li> <li>• Alternaria mostly on cotyledons.</li> <li>• Where tebuconazole used no real effect in side-by-side trials.</li> </ul>
<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crops are 1 to 2 nodes behind normal development</li> <li>• Replant looks good but running late</li> <li>• Cold and slow development – only one node progression last week</li> <li>• Slow but healthy</li> <li>• Good plant root growth</li> <li>• Cool nights stalling growth and development progression</li> <li>• Discussions with growers on lowering yield target expectations this season</li> </ul>

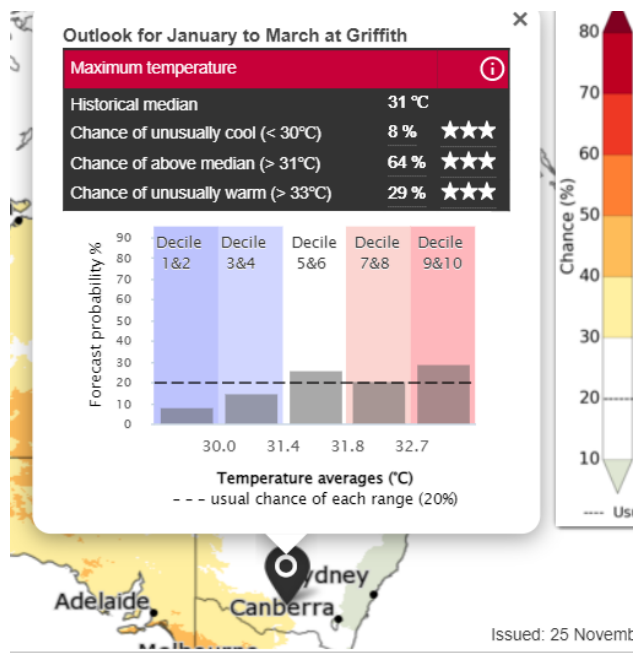


### Where are we on the yield potential line?

After a slow start it makes sense to wind back yield expectations this season. This has flow on effects for crop management decisions such as nutrition plans. Nitrogen status of individual fields needs to be monitored as we get closer to squaring. Target yields should be around 9 bales/ha remembering that our long term average yield is about 10 bales/ha.

### The season ahead

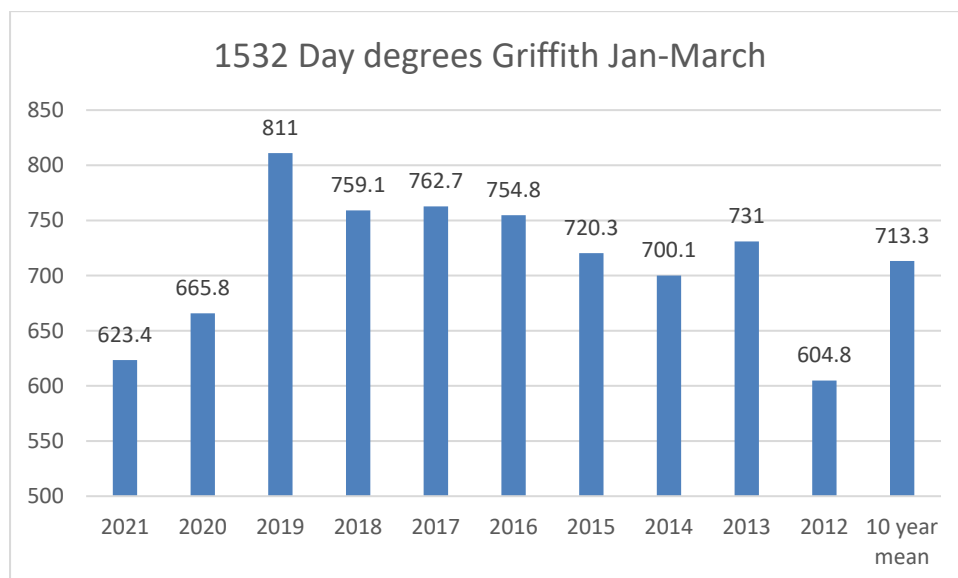
The BOM seasonal outlook site now has a new feature which indicates the chances of extreme temperatures either cooler or warmer over the next three months. You can put in your location and it gives a probability table of below, average or above average temperatures. Some good news here with at least reasonable temperatures this Summer and into Autumn.



[Max temperature - Chance of being in the highest 20% of the historical range for January to March - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

[Temperature—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

If we look back at last season the total heat units fell away from January to the end of March. This had a major influence on the final micronaire result with lost income estimated at \$17 million. Seasons with more heat units (over 700 1532 day degrees from Jan to end of March) tend to have above base micronaire grades.



## What can we do to minimise micronaire discounts?

1. Soil test pre plant, monitor N levels and read the season ahead.
2. Do everything possible to get a good start.
3. Focus on earliness, low rates of mepiquat chloride if required, cut out on time and defoliate when the crop is mature.

## Cotton Nutrition Management (Southern Rivers) webinar


With the high urea price and a wet season predicted it is important to make the most of your nutrition inputs. Knowing what levels you have in field by testing leaf blades and petioles will help you make informed nutrition management decisions.

Chris Dowling from Back Paddock has extensive experience in cotton nutrition and took us through some of the latest research and recommendations for cotton, and how we should prepare for this season.

[Cotton Nutrition Management webinar-20211104 0641-1](#)

## Some advice here from a flooded in Jon Baird, CottonInfo Technical Lead (Nutrition)

- leaf tests are a good way to check plant health and any deficiency. But you will need to wait for the plant to generate some size (~10 nodes) and preferably clear days with plenty of radiation.
- Spreading urea on wet soil is not recommended, and or receiving low amounts of rain after application. Both these scenarios will generate denitrification and potentially cost 50% of applied nitrogen urea. If broadcasting in these circumstances try using urease inhibitors.
- If spreading urea, make sure it's on dry soil and you either incorporate, irrigate or receive at least 20mm rain.



CRDC has engaged Ag Econ to investigate current industry **Nitrogen practices and attitudes** to help inform and improve research funding decisions.

**Have your say** by either;

**Completing a 10 minute survey online:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CottonNitrogen>

OR

**Give Ag Econ's George Revell or Janine Powell a call:**  
Over the phone we'll run through the survey questions (and capture any other comments you have).  
Expect this to take about 15 minutes.  
George: 0447 543 860, Janine: 0427 961 332

AgEcon

## November quiz – Where is this and what is it?



**October quiz answer – Where is this?** Barellan, tribute to Evonne Goolagong.

[Sunshine Super Girl | Andrea James | Griffith World Premiere Highlights on Vimeo](#)



**Regards Kieran**

**Disclaimer:**

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 presentation or from any errors or omissions in this document