



Darling Downs

February 2022

Welcome to the February Edition

Welcome to the first edition for 2022. I am not sure where the season had gone to, but I cannot believe it is February already. In the September edition I said that the season was shaping up to be a good one with good soil moisture, stored water and good prices. I feel we could get some help with the moisture side of things, but the rest are still true. A cooler season in many respects but the crops seem to be tracking well.

Insects to date have not been too troublesome. There is some light at the end of the tunnel so let's hope the season continues on this trajectory.

DALBY AIRPORT

Date range: 10 October, 2021 to 8 February, 2022 (122 days).

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[Summary](#) [Seasonal comparison](#)

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	10 year mean
Base 12	1407.6	1536.4 ▲	1685.0 ▲	1503.4 ▲	1439.5 ▲	1519.6 ▲
DD1532*	927.7	988.7 ▲	1046.3 ▲	976.6 ▲	917.3 ▼	974.3 ▲
Cold shock days (≤ 11°C)	8	9 ▲	13 ▲	4 ▼	10 ▲	8.6 ▲
Days above 36°C	2	20 ▲	42 ▲	16 ▲	11 ▲	18.2 ▲
Nights above 25°C	0	0	0	0	1 ▲	0.3 ▲
Days above 40°C	0	4 ▲	3 ▲	0	0	1.5 ▲
Total rainfall (mm)	497.8	228.8 ▼	158.4 ▼	295.0 ▼	278.1 ▼	251.8 ▼
Total radiation (MJ/m ²)	2428.5	2609.8 ▲	2903.3 ▲	2779.6 ▲	2827.4 ▲	2504.9 ▲
Average temperature (°C)	23.5	24.5 ▲	25.6 ▲	24.3 ▲	23.7 ▲	24.3 ▲

* Experimental calculation.

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 on this website or from any errors or omissions on this website.
Climate observations and data are obtained via the State of Queensland SILO patched point dataset.

Have you experienced spray drift this season?

If so, please consider reporting incidents to Cotton Australia.

It is critical that growers report any incident, or suspected incident, as soon as it occurs to their closest [Cotton Australia Regional Manager](#) and fill out a [Cotton Australia Spray Drift Incident Report](#). It is essential that incidents are properly logged and investigated, and Cotton Australia has a straightforward process that is simple and confidential. It is important that we know if incidents occur in order to make representations on behalf of the industry. While Cotton Australia cannot take legal action, provide professional advice or submit adverse experience reports to regulatory authorities, we can point growers in the right direction and tailor spray drift awareness initiatives into key areas based on feedback received by growers.

More information on spraydrift and Satacrop, a tool to mitigate the risk of spray drift by allowing operators to map their crops, can be found on the Cotton Australia website <https://cottonaustralia.com.au/spraydrift-and-satacrop>



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Meet the CottonInfo team

My role

I'm the CottonInfo Biosecurity Technical Lead. As part of this role I help raise the awareness and adoption of best management farm biosecurity practices



What I can help with

I can help you with questions about farm biosecurity and documenting your farm biosecurity plan.

Sharna Holman

Technical Lead
Biosecurity

Key activities

I develop farm biosecurity extension material and have also recently commenced a PhD on endemic pest, Cluster caterpillar (*Spodoptera litura*) to inform the Northern Australian RMP. As part of this role, I'll be based in Kununurra, WA, during the cotton season.

How to contact me

sharna.holman@daf.qld.gov.au
or 0477 394 116

Defoliation – looking at future opportunities

A CRDC-funded research project is currently underway to investigate opportunities for new technologies and management practices to improve defoliation. The project is being run by ICAN (Independent Consultants Australia Network) and at its conclusion next year it will provide a report to inform future research into defoliation. The ICAN team is looking at defoliation from a grower and agronomist perspective, what alternatives are available (pros and cons) and management strategies with potential to improve defoliation outcomes.

The ICAN team are currently speaking to agronomists and growers as part of their research. If you would like to share your thoughts on defoliation with them – what works, what doesn't, and what you would like to see – please email or phone John Cameron from ICAN.

Mob: 0427 209 709

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Hounds of Cotton

The CottonInfo team are putting together a calendar based around photos of dogs on cotton farms. We want the name of the dog with any photos submitted. It has been suggested this be a competition of some sort but there is nothing formalised at this point – so submissions will be for love, not reward at this stage.

Send in high resolution photos of your hound(s) to me at: Annabel.twine@cottoninfo.net.au



Dates for the Diary

- Darling Downs Cotton Management Field Day – 15 March 7.30am – ‘Wamara’ Cecil Plains

Darling Downs Ambassador Summary – Larissa Holland CSD

As the Darling Downs cotton season moves into February, there is a wide array of stages that crops are at, due to the variance in planting dates. There are early planted crops which are now beginning to have open bolls, while there are late planted crops that are now flowering. Looking at a snapshot of the CSD Ambassador Network, it can be seen that the majority of trials, both dryland and irrigated, were planted in the mid to late October period and started to flower through early January. The current state of crops across the Ambassador Network shows some excellent boll counts in both irrigated and dryland, which will hopefully eventuate into good yields.

The general consensus for the 2021-22 season on the Downs is that it has been a mild and wetter than average summer. Using the CSD day degree calculator to look at the Dalby Airport weather station data for the period in the lead up to flowering for the Ambassador network (i.e. from 18 October to 8 January, we see that this season has:

- Been the wettest on record since the 2010/11 season
- Accumulated the least number of day degree units for the same period since 2011/12
- Recorded an average temperature of 23.2°C, which is equal to the 2017/18 season. The most recent season which had a lower average temperature was 2011/12.

2021/22 Darling Downs Ambassador Network breakdown	Irrigated	Dryland
Average date of imbibition	22 October 2021	18 October 2021
Average date of first flower	8 January 2022	3 January 2022
Day degree base 12	852	875
Day degree 1532	566	567
Days after sowing	74	76
NAWF	8.1	7.9
1st position retention (%)	84.4	76.8
Vegetative growth rate (cm)	5.1	5.5

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