



Information when you need it



Darling Downs

December 2023



Welcome to the December Edition,
It is hard to believe that the door on 2023 is about to close. There have been ups and downs this season, however I look forward to welcoming 2024 and continuing to work with you all next year. Below you will find a link to our CottonInfo Improvement Survey. If you could find 5 minutes to complete the survey that would be great. To ensure we are heading in the right direction and delivering what Growers need, it is essential we receive your feedback. I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Annabel xxxxxxx

[CottonInfo Improvement Survey](#)

The CottonInfo Improvement Survey is part of a continuous improvement process being undertaken by CottonInfo at the request of partners CSD, CRDC & Cotton Australia. The key purpose is to ensure CottonInfo meets the needs of growers and the wider industry moving forward. CottonInfo includes the myBMP program, research and development and extension – and we'd really love your input. Please remember to hit submit at the end of the survey!

*Thanks in advance. **CLICK [HERE](#) TO COMPLETE THE COTTONINFO IMPROVEMENT SURVEY***

[FastStart™ Cotton Establishment Awards for 2023/2024](#)

Now open to growers across Australia's cotton valleys, there's 11 prizes for regional winners in the form of \$1000 gift cards to Total Tools. Focused on the pivotal first 70 days of cotton crop establishment, FastStart™ partners CSD and Syngenta will review the entries throughout the course of the season. On top of the \$1000 regional prize, the two overall winners will also receive a Kincome tool kit for their ute or workshop valued at nearly \$5000 each.

It is super simple to enter – just complete the form by clicking the link below. And don't forget to include a picture of you in your crop! Entries are judged on a combination of the establishment percentage and Planter Uniformity Index (PUI) of each eligible crop.

<https://faststartcotton.com.au/faststart-cotton-establishment-awards-entry/>



National Soils Survey: farmer & ag-industry survey of knowledge and extension gaps and opportunities to better manage Australia soils

Please help Melbourne Uni know what you see as missing in soil research, development, and extension in your region by filling out this national survey. So far there have not been a large number of cotton growers respond.

This survey is part of a Regional Soil Coordinator project that aims to understand the current gaps in soil: knowledge, management, adoption, and extension practices.

The aggregated (anonymous) results from this survey will be published in a report for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Should you agree to participate, the survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and consists of 24 multi-choice questions, with optional space to add more details if desired.

Click the link to access the survey:

https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6JSMQiyE7PnF2YK

Attention All Readers: important spray drift messages

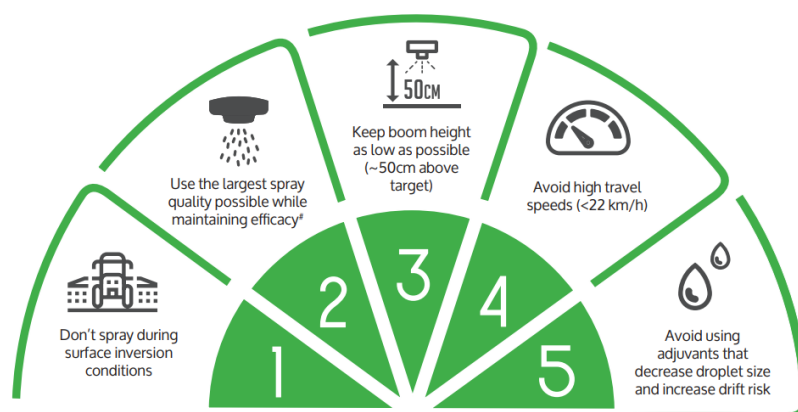
Damaging Spray drift has ALREADY been reported in some areas and with fallow sprays occurring. PLEASE, let's prevent any further spray drift.

DO NOT SPRAY DURING A HAZARDOUS INVERSION - Check your closest [WAND](#) tower before and during spraying.

WAND is available to all farmers and spray contractors for free. To access the WAND app go to <https://app.wand.com.au/>

PLEASE AVOID USING VOLATILE PRODUCTS – look for safer options and follow the **SOS 5 Commandments** when spraying.

Five commandments according to SOS



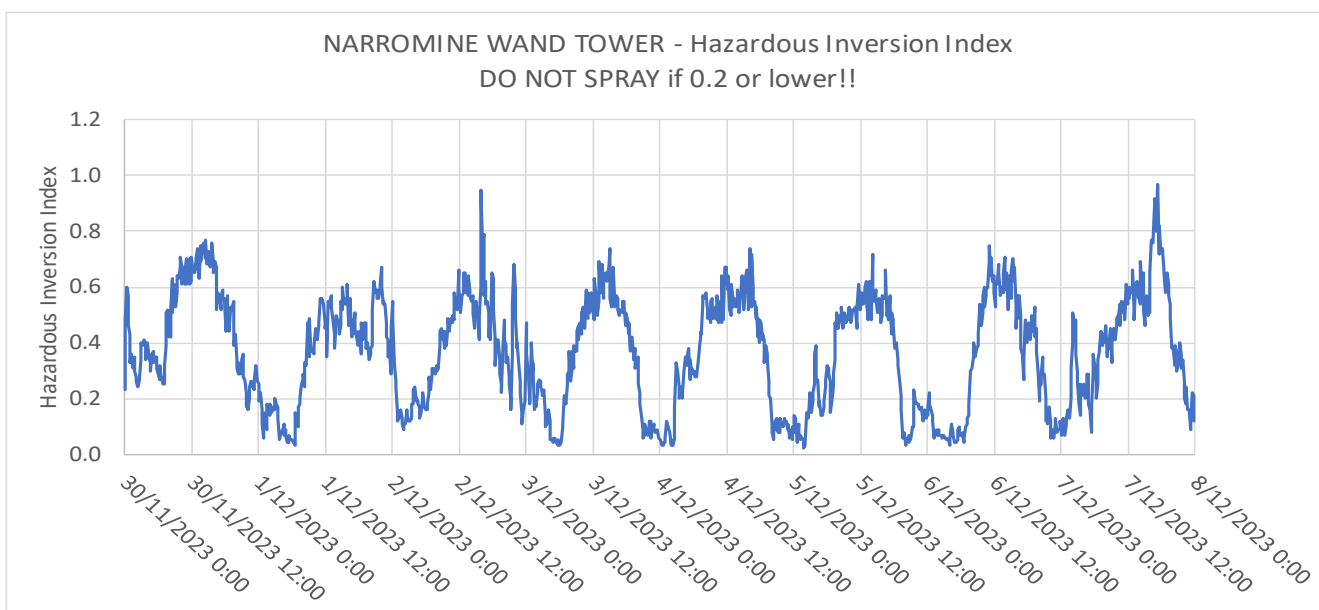
Observe label directions for minimum and maximum droplet size. Water rates may need to be modified with increased droplet sizes

**The WAND system only detects hazardous inversions;
you still need to follow the 5 commandments during all spray operations.**

- When we **Choose to Spray**, will determine where and how far the spray driftable fraction of our application will move
- The **Sprayer Set-up** will determine how much product will be left in the air.
- **Coarser Spray Qualities / Nozzles** will lower drift risk but can also impact efficacy
- Having a set of **Spray-Plans** for different paddock situations will enable efficient, safe and effective spraying.

Source: Harry Pickering, ADAMA, GRDC webinar:

[The new inversion tower network and reducing spray drift risk](#)



This figure shows the presence of hazardous inversions between 30th November 2023 and 8th December 2023 at this particular site. Source: <https://app.wand.com.au/>

This information is available for ALL WAND INVERSION TOWERS, the data is there for all and can show when a hazardous inversion has occurred AND what's expected in the next couple of hours.

The WAND system provides a nowcast, updated every 10 mins, so you can plan your tank mixes and STOP before a hazardous inversion is present.

Ashley

Default ☐

As of 07/12/2023 17:50

All label requirements must be met including wind speed during periods of application.

Hazardous Inversion	? Absent
NowCast (until 19:50)	? Present
Inversion (Vert Temp Diff)	? -0.5 °C
Wind Speed (2m)	? 2 km/h S
Max Wind Gust (2m)	? 7 km/h
Wind Speed (10m)	? 3 km/h SSW
Delta T	? 16.9 °C
Temperature	? 41 °C
Solar Radiation	? 393 W/m2
Rainfall from 9 am	? 0 mm
Rainfall 24 hrs to 9 am	? 0 mm

This is what the app looks like when you choose a tower on WAND.

If you were spraying now, you could see that a hazardous inversion is imminent within the next 2 hours, so you need to be checking the WAND regularly and planning to pull up until the inversion has passed.

Using the WAND towers can open the window for extra spray hours, but you have to keep checking WAND regularly and know your local weather conditions AND you must still follow the SOS 5 commandments.

What you need to know (taken from [CottonInfo Drift Update and Resources Dec 2022](#)):

- Map your crops on SataCrop <https://satacrop.com.au>
- Notify your neighbours when spraying
- Follow the 5 commandments according to SOS (Stop Off Target Spraying) and [Keep the spray on the weeds](#)
- Use the [WAND](#) system to check for hazardous inversions
- Support your local SOS (Stop Off-target Spraying) Group
- If you have crops that get drifted please notify Cotton Australia by using their Snap Send Solve App.
- If you want to report an incident to EPA call 131 555. Read this [EPA factsheet](#) to understand the reporting process

Cotton Australia Drift reporting - Snap Send Solve App

Cotton Australia has a new tool for easy reporting of spray drift which helps cotton farmers to photograph and report drift incidents so other growers and industry stakeholders can be alerted as quickly as possible. Growers first download the App and then sign into the Cotton Australia group. The [step-by-step guide](#) is available on the [Cotton Australia website](#) and the password/code is Cott123.

Once you are signed in, you can take a photo of spray drift damage or evidence and send it to Cotton Australia for appropriate action. You can also give approval for Cotton Australia to refer the incident to the relevant authority for investigation. It allows Cotton Australia to provide the relevant authorities real-time mapping of spray drift incidents so that they can take appropriate action to prevent further drift incidences.

Setting Up Private Reporting Mode

Step by Step Guide



- 1** Download the Snap Send Solve app free from the App Store & Google Play



- 2** Select 'More' at the bottom right corner of the screen.
- 3** Select 'Private Reporting Mode' from the list of options.
- 4** Select 'Enter Your Authority's Code'.
- 5** Insert code 'cott123'. This code only needs to be entered once.
- 6** Start a report by selecting 'Report Now'.

Dates for the diary

- Santa Arrives (generally early AM) – 25th December 2023
- Bayer Grower of the Year Field day – Tyunga – Cecil Plains 20th March 2024

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