Crop/Bug Check (week ending 30\textsuperscript{th} December)

**Crop Stage**
- Irrigated: 7 to 18 nodes, crops flowering 7-9 NAWF (nodes above white flower)
- Dryland: 6-17 nodes

**Insects/Beneficial’s**
- Continued Heliothis egg lays 5-15/m
- Low Mirid activity starting to become evident
- Beneficials including Red blue, lady beetles, spiders, still increasing.
- Thrips present.

**Weeds**
- Another pass over resistant BYG patches, chipping FTR patches.

**Disease**
- Verticillium becoming very evident in all varieties

**Other**
- Hormone herbicide damage in all area’s

**What the consultants are saying**

“Mirids remain low mostly nymphs 0.4/m, no insecticide sprays yet”
“For my dryland crops, some younger cotton is stranded in a dry band and is struggling. Will need follow up rain. Crops that are up and away are looking good and have high retention”.
“Low pest pressure, good numbers of beneficials mainly beetles and spiders, low weed pressure, good retention hopefully holds the fruit during the current hot dry weather”.
“18 nodes, well into flowering getting 2\textsuperscript{nd} in-crop water today (30\textsuperscript{th})”
“Hormone damage is becoming a big problem”

Please note, that all agronomic decisions should be based around your crop and the pests found in it. This is a summary of responses from 5 consultants based in the Gwydir Valley.

**Day Degrees - Moree**

Accumulated day degrees from planting date of 1 November until 29 December - Moree

- From 1\textsuperscript{st} Nov – 819
- 2017 – 768
- 2016 – 807
- Long Term Average – 736
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>Cold Shock</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Day Degrees - Mungindi**
Accumulated day degrees from planting date of 1 November until 29 December - Mungindi
- From 1st Nov – 902
- 2017 – 864
- 2016 – 877
- Long Term Average – 809

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hot Days</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>17.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Shock</td>
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**Herbicide damage in the Gwydir**
I have had a number of reports of hormone herbicide damage across the Gwydir, varying in severity.

**Drift is preventable** see [Summer weed control BEST practice](#) and [Keep the Spray on the Weeds](#) poster
“Regardless of the active ingredient or what crop you grow or where you grow it, as a chemical user, it’s your responsibility to keep product on your land. If you’re not achieving this, then your equipment, practices & most likely your attitude need urgent review” Mary O’Brien #getmydrift

Never spray under still or inversion conditions. Do you know how to recognise an inversion? See this very good video Recognising an early morning inversion
Compare that video to this one: A demonstration of air movement after an inversion breaks. Daytime conditions for spraying

Expect an inversion EVERY night unless you have one or more of these:
- Heavy low cloud
- It is raining
- Wind speed remains above 11km/hr for the entire time between sunset and sunrise

ITS NOT ABOUT THE WIND SPEED BUT HOW THE AIR IS MOVING, we need some turbulent air movement to dilute our spray and pull fine droplets to ground. Under inversion the air loses turbulence and movement becomes parallel to the surface.

Camera sprayers are also affected by inversions.

Further information
- Stop the drift – spray drift tips with Mary O’Brien Weed Smart Stop the Drift Webinar

All you need to know about the recent APVMA 2,4-D label instruction changes in one place: https://www2.nufarm.com/au/2018/11/14/apvma-24-d-2-2/

“We’re on the knife edge, regulation on this product will continue to tighten and we will lose this product” Mary O’Brien #getmydrift

Verticillium on the rise
NSW DPI Pathologist Dr Duy Le says that Verticillium Wilt is popping up quite early. He had samples prior to Christmas with typical Vert Symptoms (leaf mottling and dark vascular discolouration) on young cotton plants (10-12 nodes). It’s important to monitor your crops and send plant samples for testing, to ensure correct ID.

- Wrap plant samples (stems and leaves) in a paper bag, envelope, or dry newspaper and place this within a second, preferably sealed paper bag – never use plastic.
- Write your name, farm name, field name/number, a GPS coordinate or equivalent and date on the outside of this bag.
- IF SAMPLES ARE NOT LABELLED AND PACKAGED CORRECTLY, THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY ACRI RECEPTION.
- Each bag should contain samples from one field only.
- Attach a completed diagnostic form (see link below) when sending samples including information such as symptoms, field history and variety.
- Keep the samples cool (placed in the fridge) and send as soon as possible after collecting.
- It is better to despatch samples early in the week rather than just before the weekend.
- NB: If Fusarium is suspected DO NOT SEND SAMPLE TO ACRI, CONTACT: Dr Duy Le (0439 941 542) or Dr Linda Smith (0457 547 617)
For further information on Verticillium Wilt go to the CottonInfo website for fact sheets:

- How to collect, store and send disease samples
- Disease diagnostic form
- Verticillium Wilt Fast Facts
- Latest Vert Research

Biosecurity best practice – Farm Visitors Register

Visitors, consultants and researchers are just some of the people coming onto Damien Ebbern’s Darling Down ‘Melrose’ property. They all have one thing in common: they all log their visit on a visitors register to assist Damien in recording the movements on and off the property. The visitors register is an effective tool in recording people movements and tracing any potential spread of pests. You can find templates ready to use on the Farm Biosecurity website http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/.

Watch Damien’s video to find out how he practically implements the visitors register on farm, Implementing a farm register.

What is farm biosecurity?

Farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests and diseases. Farm biosecurity is your responsibility, and that of every person visiting or working on your property.

Local Trials

DCRA Planter Bar Establishment Trials

The Dryland Cropping and Research Association (DCRA) have planted their second year of trials using the Planter Bar. CRDC funded planter bar consists of 6 different row units. It was built to evaluate the different ground engaging techniques under different soil moisture conditions in various soil types. DCRA aim to build a data set over multiple seasons of trials.

Jo Weir, Mungindi Cropping Group & DCRA recently held a field day to give growers the opportunity to see the various units in action at Neil & Tom Greentreer’s property “Willaalea”, Bullarah. Tom (pictures below) is growing cotton for the 1st time this season (check out other 1st time grower stories at http://acresofopportunity.com.au/cotton-stories/). There was great interest from all the growers and consultants who were quick to get down and dig in the dirt looking at the differences between the row units.
CSD Variety Trials
Alice Curkpatrick, E&D Agronomist, CSD has been busy once again with trials in full swing. Alice has 22 trials including Ambassador sites, variety trials and fusarium and verticillium ranking trials. First dryland variety trial was sown on 9th September, last one planted 3rd December. Alice planted the dryland variety trial at Bogamildi with JR McDonald (pictured below) on the 17th November 2018.

“Irrigated crops are now at first flower and looking strong, commonly at 9-10 NAWF and good retention. Early dryland has been flowering for up to 3 weeks and late plant dryland has established well off late November rain.” Alice Curkpatrick, CSD

Dates for Diary

AWM Meetings
- **Gwydir West AWM**
  o Date: Wednesday 9th January 2019
  o Time: 4:00pm
  o Location: **Mallawa Racecourse, Mallawa.**
  o Directions: [https://goo.gl/maps/3JQ1Q7z14vH2](https://goo.gl/maps/3JQ1Q7z14vH2)
  o Refreshments sponsored by Bayer (Tom Luff, Regional Business Manager)

- **Gwydir North East AWM**
  o Date: Thursday 10th January 2019
  o Time: 4:00pm
  o Location: Auscott Midkin Office
  o Refreshments sponsored by AgNova Technologies Pty Ltd (Pieter Kwint, Area Manager)

Bankless Irrigation Field Day
- Date: Wednesday 6th February 2018
- Supported by NWIAL (North West Irrigation Australia Regional Committee), Gwydir Valley CGA, CottonInfo, NWLLS and NSW DPI Sustaining the Basin

Janelle Montgomery

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