



Macquarie bale up

SEPTEMBER 2020

SEASON UPDATE

The forecast area for Macquarie Valley lays somewhere between 17 000 – 18 000 ha for the 20/21 season and around 8000ha in Bourke. Burrendong dam is a healthy 46%, so compared to this time last year (4.42%, yep we were down to putting in the second decimal place) we are in a much more positive position. Currently the general security allocation sits at 12% and there is a potential increase to this if September inflow targets are achieved. The winter cropping season has been the best in four or five seasons, although we have a few hurdles left to jump before the cheque's in the bank. There is a good area planted to Canola this season, so we need keep an eye out for the early season pests that tend to pop up whenever we have a green bridge throughout the winter months. There has been some Alternaria making its way up the Canola plant so that might be one to watch for early season in our cotton.

GINNERS REPORTS

Last season was certainly a curve ball thrown at us from mother nature, and the yield and ginning results reflect that. For some it is still going, and picking is being done in small increments where possible.

What the ginners are saying.....

- *The early picked cottons quality was base grade and better, primarily 21-3-36s, with no Mic, strength or length penalties. However, as the season progressed, and the wet weather set in the quality began to slip. Discounts were mostly for low Mic (2.6-3.2 range) and low strength (25.9-27.9) with the odd colour discount slipping into the back end of fields that were rain effected.*
- *Irrigated overhead farm average yields in the Macquarie have ranged between 7-9.0b/ha and furrow irrigated farm average yields between 8.5-11.0b/ha. The overall Macquarie irrigated farm average yield at the Namoi gin is 9.05b/ha (excluding the few grower yet to be ginned as their results are not yet conclusive).*
- *Turnout range on irrigated cotton has been between 38.5% - 42.5% and as expected has slipped towards the back end of the season due to the higher trash and moisture content of incoming modules requiring more cleaning equipment during gin runs.*



- *“As the result of rain during picking the cottons moisture and trash content became higher towards the back end of the season and the colour a little duller”.*
- *Running with average yield around 9 for the season, completely reflective of the finish and those who had water issues throughout. Classing, mainly base grade however a portion of low mic & colour, again reflective of the season*

Classing/Quality:

- *We saw good quality considering the season (growers short on water/late rain).*
- *Micronaire was mostly good at base grade at a G5 considering the difficult season. Earlier in season we did see high mic come through at a G6 and G7 which was less than 5% of the crop we saw.*
- *Strength was great with the crop coming in 28.0 to 34.0 +*
- *Minimal short staple came through less than a 36 length.*
- *We mostly saw 31 – and 41 – 3 for the crop that got a bit wet.*
- *Considering the late rain, modules came in within the moisture parameters and it was not too much of an issue in having to gin certain wet modules quickly.*

Yields

- *An uneasy start and late wet finish. The crop did not really benefit from the late rain – more so drew picking out which took longer to receive modules and start ginning.*
- *Pretty variable between growing areas and fields. Nothing ground breaking here to note, very much well below the valley average.*

Ginning

- *We commenced later than usual.*
- *We began mid-June and finished by the end of the month.*
- *Ginned 2052 bales.*
- *Average turnout 41.43%*
- *We ginned 748, 746 & 714. 746 variety again perform the best averaging 43.17% and 748 coming in at 39.39%.*

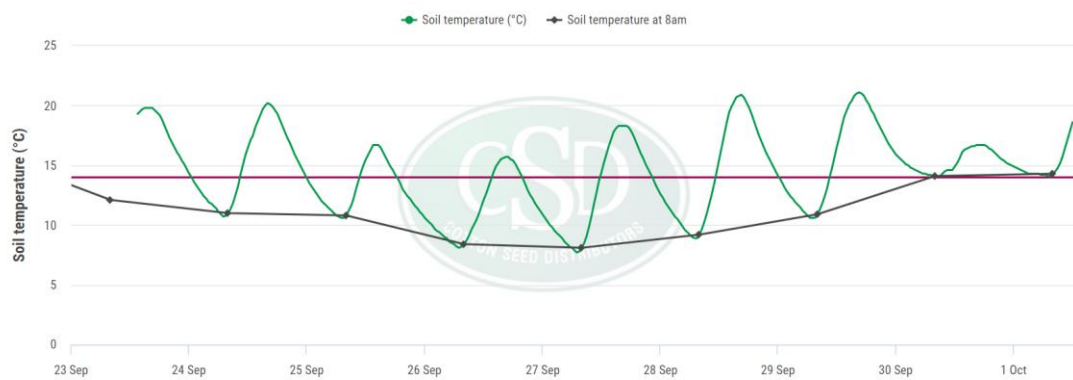
Thanks to Jacinta Condon (QLD Cotton) Jess Strauch (Namoi Cotton) and Anna Dawson Auscott for contributing to this report

PLANTING 2020

We have a lot of tools that can help us with planting. It can be one of the most important decisions we make as to when we plant our crop. Given that (much to our disgust) we do not have a crystal ball and cannot see into the future we need to make sure we use everything we have at hand. If you are not already a member of CSD take the leap and sign up as they really are the go to for the tools and information to make the best planting decisions <https://www.csd.net.au/>. [CottonInfo](#) also have a one stop shop for information pertaining to planting.

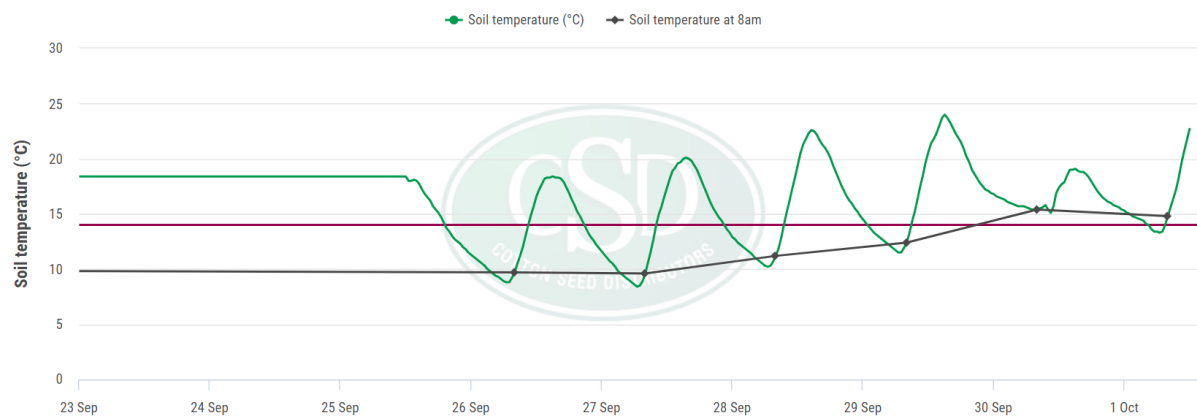
One thing that we do know is that you cannot be in every field you plan to plant at 8.00am to check the soil temp at the same time. This is where your \$20 membership to CSD pays for itself. They have soil temps and moisture probes installed in all the growing regions and the information is laid

out in a clear and concise manner (see below)



- Planting can begin when soil temperatures reach 14°C (red line in graph) at 8am for three consecutive days.
- Planting can begin when there is a rising plane of temperature forecasted above 14°C for the next 7 days.

Fig 1: 7 Day summary of soil temps at “Agriland” (Trangie). Source <https://www.csd.net.au/soil-temperature/11601>



- Planting can begin when soil temperatures reach 14°C (red line in graph) at 8am for three consecutive days.
- Planting can begin when there is a rising plane of temperature forecasted above 14°C for the next 7 days.

Fig 2: 7 Day summary of soil temps at “Mumblebone East” (Warren). Source <https://www.csd.net.au/soil-temperature/11601>

While both these sites have just reached the critical temperature, it’s important to also consider the forecast for the next 7 -10 days and post emergence.

To check your soil temperature and 7-day forecast, CSD members can access the FastStart™ Soil Temperature Network <https://www.csd.net.au/soil-temperature>



CSD AMBASSADOR UPDATE – GET THE BEST PLANTING POSSIBLE

With six seasons of data collected through the Program, the CSD Ambassador Network has enabled comparisons to be made across different districts, climatic conditions and management types. Additionally, the data set can be broken into yield performance to compare the similar characteristics of high yielding crops. CSD have also partnered with CSIRO on the GxExM (Genetics by Environment by Management) program, which provides further analytics of the data in the interaction of these elements using artificial intelligence.

Information from the 19/20 ambassador report shows the average planting date and other information for over 58 000ha of fully irrigated cotton across all the regions the program reaches.

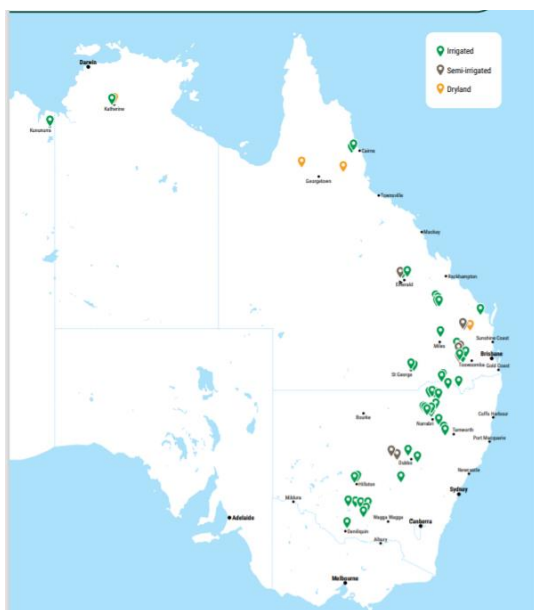


Fig 3. Location of ambassador sites. (Source 2019-20 CSD ambassador summary)

PLANTING AND ESTABLISHMENT

	2019-20	2018-19	5 Year Average
Planting Date	29/09/2019	16/10/2018	10 October
Seed wet date	11/10/2019	18/10/2018	13 October
Establishment method	Watered up (72%)	Watered up (84%)	Watered up
Planting speed (km/Hr)	8.5	8.9	8.7
Planting depth (cm)	2.3	2.6	2.6

Fig 4. Planting and Establishment information: this is a summary of all the data sets across the cotton growing regions. (Source 2019-20 CSD ambassador summary)





The FastStart cotton program provides practical information on key management steps to achieve an optimum plant stand, further is the **FastStart Cotton Establishment Awards**. Easy to enter and has a ripper of a travel prize on offer, check out what you need to know at <http://faststartcotton.com.au/faststart-awards/>

CSD Trial Update by Craig McDonald

- 3 Variety trials at Bourke (Ambassador sites)
- 1 Variety trial at Warren (Ambassador site)
- 2 Variety trials at Narromine including a double skip irrigated.
- 2 Ambassador sites at Narromine.
- 1 Discovery trial at Narromine
- 1 Ambassador site at Forbes
- 1 Variety trial at Condobolin and
- 1 Ambassador site at Condobolin.

QR Code on Cotton Seed Bags

This season a QR code is located on seed bags – this can be read with a phone camera or QR code scanner, assuming there is internet access. This should return a Statement of Seed Analysis. In the absence of the QR code reader the Auslot number can be entered into the website to obtain this valuable germination info, seed count etc. **It is a very good idea to take a photo of each bag or Auslot for your records.**

Planting Green Light?

With planters starting to move it is a timely reminder to ensure that you have a green light for planting <https://www.csd.net.au/green-light-for-planting> , ideally ensure that field soil temperature at 10 cm depth is above 14°C at 8am (AEST) and that forecast average temps for the week following are on a rising plane. The soil temperature network provides a handy 7-day, Day Degree outlook calculation that helps with this outlook – ideally 80 Day Degree accumulation in the 7 days post seed imbibition is considered ideal. The outlook for this week has certainly improved on that of last week.

The information is a 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 document or from any errors or omissions in this document

Contact Craig McDonald for further information on 0484513566

CRDC news

News from CRDC includes:

- The CRDC supports an International Cross Industry project to combat Fall Armyworm
- CRDC with Cotton Australia are working with international bodies to align sustainability impact indicators and metrics globally.

- Regional Wellbeing survey is underway please take the time to have a crack it has three to choose from ranging from 10mins to an hour [2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey](#)
- CRDC to support the [Satacrop](#) website which shows crop locations, growers and TUA's need to input all fields going into cotton
- Proposals from the EOI for implementation of a spray drift warning system are under consideration. For more details on these, click [here](#).

Farm Hack of the month

While hanging off a few pipes, trying to measure the pipe, put in the GPS coordinates and a date stamp and time I thought there must be a better way..... and it turns out there is. The app is called Context Camera It labels the picture with GPS points; it does cost \$15 but I think it is well worth it.

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/context-camera/id662559044>

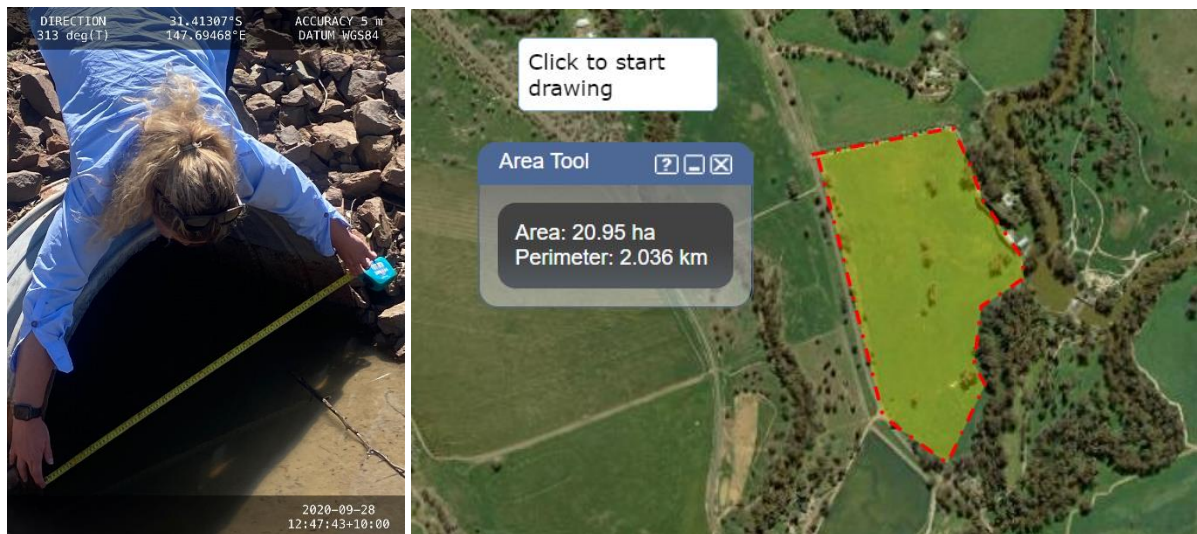


Figure 5: Context camera and Sixmaps in action

Im sure everyone is aware of this one but Tim Whitely showed me [sixmaps](#). It's a very easy to use web-based mapping program that allows you to do a quick map and get an estimate of area as well as measure distance in a flash.

That's a wrap for another bale up sorry its been so long in between drinks looking forward to getting out and about and supporting you this season. My door and my ears are always open if you need any help.

Amanda Thomas

Regional Extension Officer - Macquarie | CottonInfo

M 0417 226 411 |

E amanda.thomas@cottoninfo.net.au |

W | www.cottoninfo.com.au

NOTICE: This email and any attachments are confidential to Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorized to use or disclose this email or the attachments or any information in them; please tell the sender immediately by return email that you have received the email in error, and delete the email and its attachments from your computer.