



**Information** when you need it



# Darling Downs

**May 2023**

## **Welcome to the May Edition**

Picking continues across the region, as does crop destruction. Crops hit by those horrible frosts in early May are struggling to be defoliated and unfortunately some may not be. As winter crop is being planted, mouse numbers are on the rise. Be aware.

The gin yards are full and gins are in full swing.

There is a lot of information sessions being held over the next couple of months, of which a few are listed below.

Enjoy Reading!

## CSD “Growing Better Cotton Series”

CSD are changing things up! They are excited to present the 'Growing Better Series' - a series of information sessions, forums and field days focused on providing you with the information you need, when you need it.

They include:

- 1) **Seed and Sales Information Sessions which start next week!**
- 2) Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums – August 2023
- 3) Growing Better Field Days held during the 2023/24 cotton season.

CSD’s first Growing Better Series event is the **Seed and Sales Information Sessions**. These sessions have been designed to provide CSD agents, and interested growers, with information on variety availability, pricing, seed treatments, timelines, and agent requirements.

**Location      Time/Dates**

**8<sup>th</sup> June – The Federal Hotel – Toowoomba – 11am**

**8<sup>th</sup> June – Russell Tavern – Dalby – 4pm**

These meetings are expected to run for 1.5hrs max.

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Variety trial information will not be available at these meetings. To find the latest information on CSD**



*Best Practice*



Variety Trials please go to <https://csd.net.au/variety-trials>. This site continues to be updated as the 2022/23 data becomes available.

Later in the year, we will hold the **Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums**

These forums will be held across the cotton growing regions of Australia and will provide an opportunity for growers, agronomists, agents, and all members of the industry to gain access to variety trial data, the latest nutrition and disease information, insight into the future of precision ag, plus much more.

## Lint Turn Out Percentage (LTO%)

The LTO% is a simple measurement of the weight ratio of lint to seed cotton in any particular module, field or gin run. For example, if the lint percentage is 40%, 50% may be seed and the remaining 10% trash mainly composed of hulls, sticks, dust, leaf, and a small percentage of motes (cotton fibres attached with immature or broken seeds).

Check out the latest CottonInfo Factsheet which describes how LTO% is calculated and factors affecting it.

[Turn Out | CottonInfo](#)

## Effect of residual herbicides applied at camera spray rates during fallow on the subsequent cotton crop

Graham Charles, Eric Koetz & Jeff Werth NSW DPI & QDAF

Work supported by CRDC.



Camera sprayers have increased in popularity with overall big reductions in chemical use in fallow fields. High chemical rates can be applied to individual weeds when a number of nozzles fire. This can have residual chemical carryover effects on the following cotton crop.

Herbicide	Active	Group	Rate
Balance	isoxaflutole	27	100g/ha
Sharpen	safufenacil	14	34g/ha
Starane Advanced	Fluroxypyr	4	900ml/ha
Valor	flumioxazin	14	140g/ha
2,4-D amine	2,4-D amine	4	1.6 L/ha
Voraxor	safufenacil + trifludimoxazin	14	240 ml/ha

All herbicides were applied at 1X, 2X, 4X and 8X rates on 30 Jul 2021.  
Cotton planted 7 Oct 2021, Sicot 714B3F.

#### Seedling damage assessment 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

Herbicide	Plant stand	Plant size
Balance 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	Reduced
Sharpen 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	Reduced
Starane Advanced 4X & 8X	Reduced	Reduced
Valor – all rates	-	-
2,4-D amine	-	-
Voraxor	Reduced at 2,4,8 X	Reduced

#### Yield and Maturity

Herbicide	Yield	Maturity
Balance 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	delayed
Sharpen 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	delayed
Starane 4X & 8X	Reduced at 8X	delayed
Valor – all rates	-	delayed
2,4-D amine	-	-
Voraxor – all rates	Reduced at 2,4,8 X	delayed

#### Take home message:

- Be conservative with residual herbicides, especially at high (camera sprayer) rates.
  - Often when two or more nozzles fire the rates are considerably higher than the already high permit rate.
- Be wary of combinations of herbicides, they may have reduced safety margins.
- The more herbicides, the more chances for damage.
- Be aware of potential additive effects when using residuals in summer crop after applying residual herbicides in the winter phase and vice versa. Some interactions can linger longer in the soil.

## Upcoming XtendFlex Cotton Spray Applicator Training Sessions

As part of Bayer's commitment to whole of system stewardship, the spray applicator training will be a requirement for:

- Technology User Agreement (TUA) signers;
- **All on-farm staff responsible for spray applications (including mixing/handling); and**
- **Any spray contractor that applies XtendFlex Cotton System products over-the-top (OTT) of XtendFlex cotton varieties, once approved by the APVMA.**



Each training session covers theory and practical topics. Local courses are listed below. For a full list of course locations and dates, please see the [Bayer website](#). Participants need to register for workshops and can do so from the Bayer website or by clicking [here](#).

Local Course Dates:

- Dalby – June 15
- Cecil Plains – June 17
- Pittsworth – August 14
- Dalby - August 15

## CSD News

[Cotton Yarns Podcast](#) – In the April podcast, CSD extension agronomist, Angus Marshall talks to QDAF principal pathologist Dr Linda Smith about Fusarium Wilt. You will need to be a [CSD member](#) to listen to these.



**New Chief Executive Officer appointed** – Dr Ian Taylor (CRDC Executive Director) has been appointed to the role and is due to commence in September 2023. Ian will replace outgoing Managing Director Peter Graham.

## CRDC News

- CRDC partners in Northern Australia RD&E
- CRDC's Dr Ian Taylor joins key cotton partner CSD as CEO
- Former Cotton scientist Dr Nicola Cottee joins CRDC's Innovation team
- Directors sought for CRDC board
- Agrifutures Horizon Scholarships for two students choosing cotton careers
- RM Williams Outback magazine takes a deep dive into Australian Cotton Research
- All 100 WAND (inversion) towers now live



## Dates for the Diary

- **CSD Growing Better Cotton Series – 8<sup>th</sup> June Toowoomba and Dalby**
- **Cotton Collective – Toowoomba – 2-3 August**

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