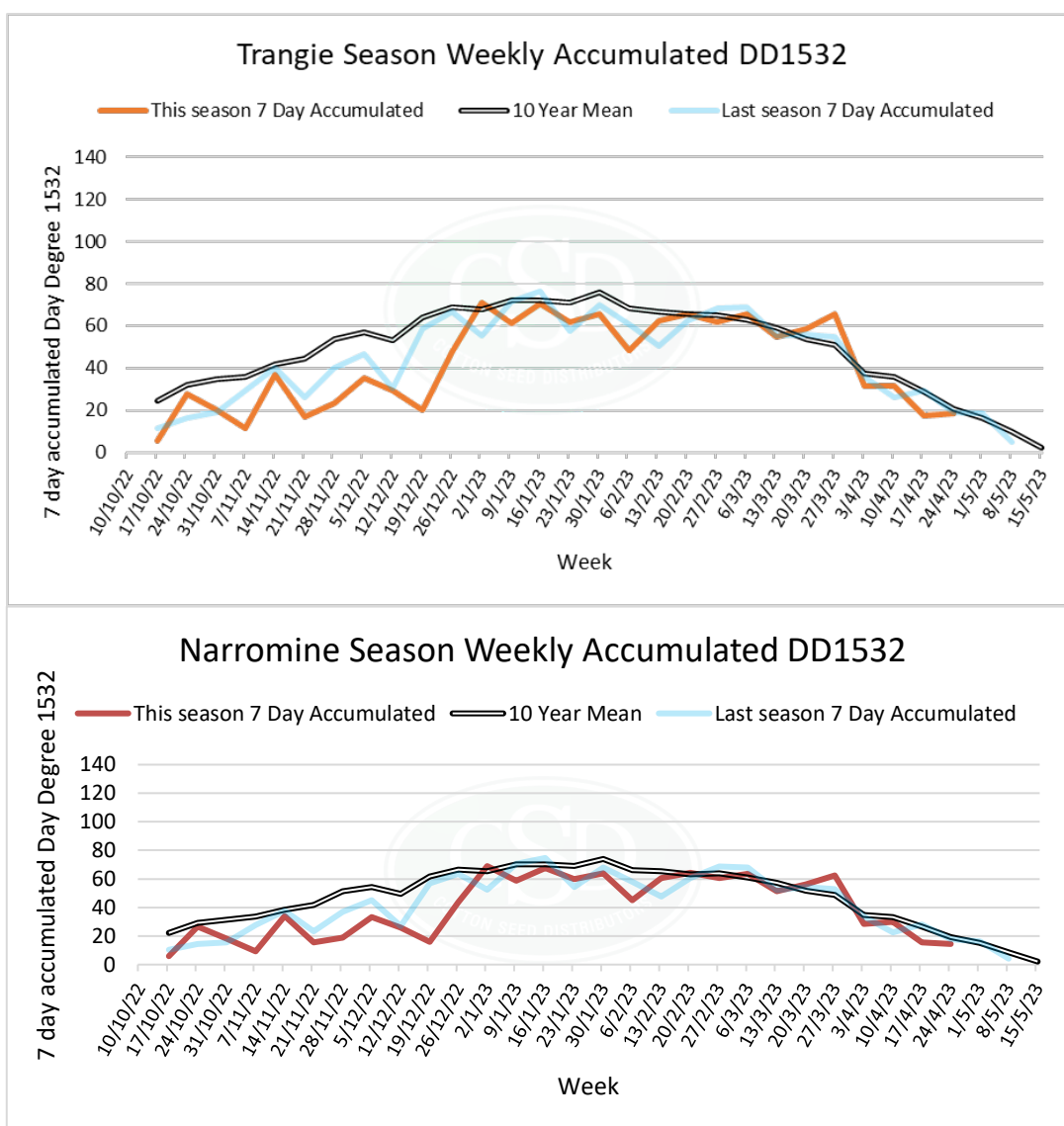


Macquarie bale up

JUNE JULY 2023



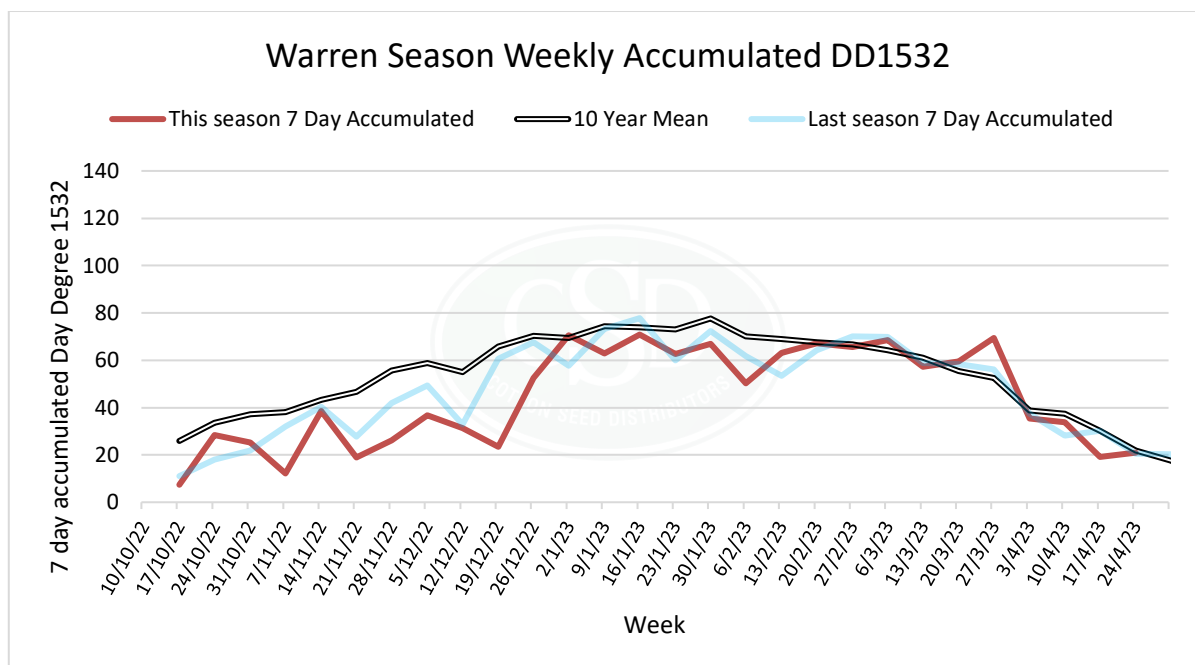


Fig 1: 7 Day accumulated Day Degrees 1532 (Source : www.sd.net.au)

PICKING UPDATE

Picking is done for around 98% of the valley, with still a few stubborn fields that have been impacted by the short picking window and rainfall events. Northern end of the valley is all done with some bales remaining on farms still.

On average, 37% of the ginning is done and yield and turnouts are still very consistent. We are still seeing anything from 10.7 bales to 16 bale averages across the valley, with yields surprising some growers which is a great result. Of the cotton that has been ginned so far, the average is around 12.5 bales.

Turnout is from 42.7 and up as high as 46.8 being the best so far. The quality of the cotton has been very good and in some cases growers are getting paid extra for great quality cotton. There have been some pockets of trashy cotton that just didn't seem to defoliate effectively, as well as evidence of the off-target spray drift events that occurred throughout the valley this year impacting on defoliation and quality.

Winter cropping was very much a game of chance this season but for the most part crops are established and there has been some good follow up falls. There has been some good progress with ground prep across the valley, and with Burrendong Dam at 96% capacity there is some good prospects for next season being one of the biggest we have had for a few years. Prices remain promising and growers can plan ahead as much as possible. Nitrogen is proving scarce and expensive so it's a great time to soil test and see what you have stored in the soil, when doing the nutrition budget for next season.



AMBASSADOR NETWORK – 2022/2023 SEASON SUMMARY

Each season for the past seven years CSD has been collecting data from Ambassador sites spread across the whole cotton industry. There are many data points collected from each site to put together the Ambassador information.

The information provided here is some of the key points from each season along with the 7-year average. All the Ambassador data below is from the Macquarie Valley. It is from irrigated fields managed commercially.

Each season there has been several sites spread across the valley covering Narromine, Trangie and Warren. However, for the 2022-23 season there were two sites, one north of Warren and one near Trangie. Not all information is available for this season yet.

Some sites are stand alone and others are embedded within variety trials. During the drought years there has been more sites around Narromine due to growers having bore water when general security allocations were low.

(Source: Craig McDonald CSD Extension)

Operation	Season Summary	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	7 yr Average
Planting	Field condition score	1.5	2.1	3.25	2	2.4	2.6
	Planting date	11/10-11/11	10/10-12/10	5/10-20/10	14/10-13/11	27/9-10/11	27/9-13/11
	Seed wet date	11/10-13/11	12/10	6/10-21/10	15/10-14/11	28/9-11/11	6/10-1/11
	Est Method	Rain/water up	Rain moisture	Rain/Water up	Water up	Water up	Water up
	Planting speed km/h	9.7	9.0	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.9
	Seed Depth cm	3	2.7	3	2.5	2.6	2.7
	Rate kg/ha	13.0	13.6	13.8	13.7	13.2	13.5
	Plants/m	16.6	12.0	11.9	10.7	10.62	12.4
	Est percentage	94.8	79.3	76.7	73.7	74.5	79.8
First Flower	First flower date	15/01-25/01	31/12-9/1	28/12-08/01	29/12-21/01	18/12-16/01	12/12- 21/01
	1st Flower DD Base 12	857	786.5	899	998	863	905
	1st Position ret.%	85.8	92.5	74.4	89.3	86.3	84.1
	NAWF	8	8.4	8.7	8.52	8.3	8.3
	Cut out date	18/02	5/2-15/02	01/02-09/02	31/01-17/02	16/01-18/02	29/01-23/02
	Day Degrees at Cut out	1440	1307	1366	1627	1468	1528
	Length of flowering days	29	38.8	35	39.3	32.5	36



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Cut Out	Total Nodes	19.0	23.0	24.6	26.1	23.6	24.2
	Squaring nodes	12.1	16.2	16.8	18	17	16.9
	Plant Heights cm	80.2	96.2	101.8	99.7	98	96.3
	Total bolls/m ²	126.5	137.2	159.7	150.5	153.2	143.4
End of season	Final Height cm	81.9	99.8	101.1	94	99.5	96.3
	Total Nodes	19.6	23.1	23.5	24.2	24	24.1
	Retention % 1-12	69.1	54.4	54.9	52	50.6	52.8
	Final boll count/m ²	129	138.7	146.8	152.3	139	145.5
	Mainstem fruit %		72.8	59.3	46.5	50.1	56.5
	Outer fruit %		14.9	21.7	19	24	21
	Vegetative Fruit %		12.9	17.2	32.2	26	20.5
Defoliation	Defoliation date	27/3-13/04	03/04-16/4	28/03-20/4	17/04-24/04	18/03-24/04	03/03-24/04
	Length of season Days	159	181.1	176	174.6	165	166.7
	Total in crop irrigations	9	7.6	6.5	8	8.6	8.5
	Pre plant N kg/ha		196.3	149	118	97	94.6
	Post plant N kg/ha		144.7	128	179	118	161.7
	Total kg N/ha		341.1	270	300	215	257
Picking	Yield b/ha		13.88	14.19	10.3	11.82	12.53
	Boll weight gms/boll		2.22	2.44	1.89	2.1	2.27

Fig 2. Summary of ambassador data –(Source: Craig McDonald CSD Extension)

RICHARD WILLIAMS INITIATIVE (RWI) – DISEASE ACTION GROUPS UPDATE

This project is progressing ahead in leaps and bounds in each of the nominated regions. CSD and CRDC have supported this work, with a strong focus on monitoring and evaluation. We are looking at whole farming systems not just yield from certain crops. Even in the short time it's been running we are seeing that certain rotations have positive impacts on the inoculum levels of disease in the soils. Growers have reported that knowing their levels has helped them with decisions going forward - "It's like waiting for the report card to see how we did."

In the Macquarie there are a number of farms that have now had two rounds of sampling for Black Root Rot and Verticillium Wilt – the heat maps allow growers to be able to see the numbers at a glance and see what impact the rotation has on these levels. In the current project scope, the fields will have a total of five samples over the three-year period. From this we will be able to get regional and national data. The next steps will be to get the action research group together again and discuss the results as well as bring any researchers on board that might help to shed some light on what we are seeing.



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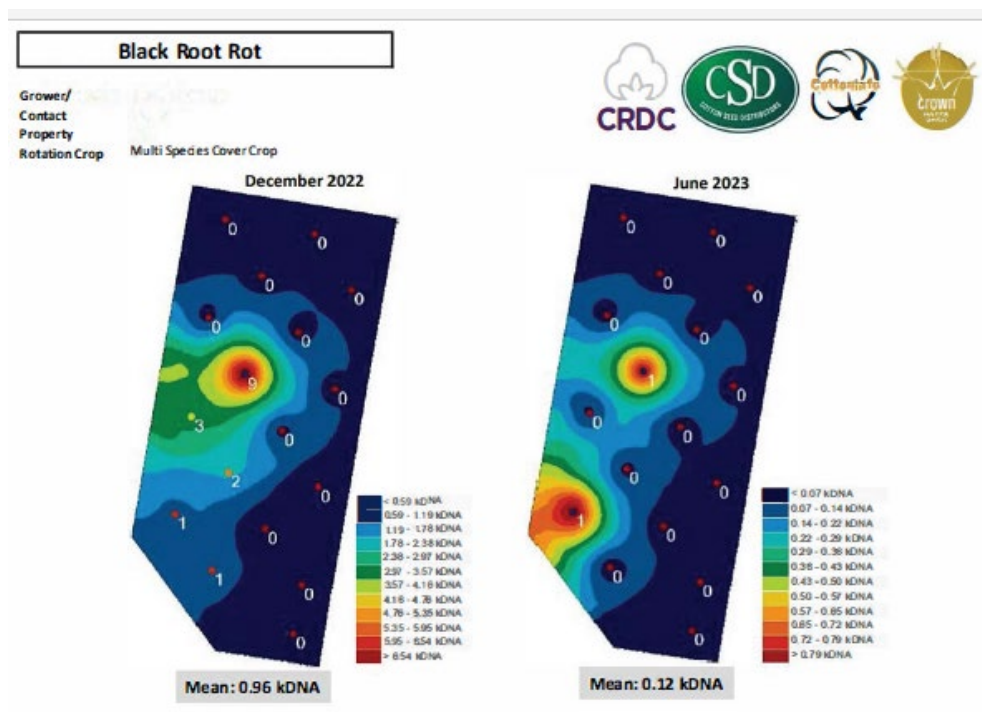


Fig 3: Example of comparison heat maps of inoculum levels Source: Rob Long Crown Analytical Services.

The inoculum testing was for Soil Black Root Rot (0.00 - 10.00cm), Soil Verticillium Dahliae (0.00 - 10.00cm) and soil Verticillium Dahliae Defoliating Strain (0.00 - 10.00cm).

CRDC NEWS

CottonInfo Program Manager takes on new role

After nine years as Program Manager for the Australian cotton industry's joint extension program – CottonInfo – Warwick Waters commenced his new role 1st July.

Since its inception in 2012, the CottonInfo program team has grown from just nine to today having more than 20 experts working to connect cotton growers, agronomists and industry with research and development outcomes.

Read on [here](#).



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 the "Mastering Cotton Forums".

These forums will be tailored to suit the experiences and challenges of growing cotton in our region. The Macquarie location will be held in Dubbo. They 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. [Growing Better Series Mastering Cotton Forum - Dubbo - Cotton Seed Distributors \(csd.net.au\)](https://csd.net.au)

Date: 13/09/2023 1:00 pm
Venue: Taronga Western Plains Zoo
Address: Obley Rd
Town: Dubbo, NSW



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

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](https://www.bayer.com.au). Participants need to register for workshops and can do so from the Bayer website or by clicking [here](#).

[Wednesday 23 August, 2023](#) [Narromine, NSW](#) [8:45AM – 2:30PM](#)

[Thursday 24 August, 2023](#) [Warren, NSW](#) [8:45AM – 2:30PM](#)

[Monday 28 August, 2023](#) [Condobolin, NSW](#) [8:45AM – 2:30PM](#)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JULY

Tuesday 25th

Cotton Irrigation Automation Demonstration Opportunity
 Narromine Irrigation Depot. 48 Warren Rd, Narromine NSW 2821



Time: From 9am till 12 noon RSVP kevin.saillard@farmconnect.com
0448 973 647.

AUGUST

1 – 3 August [Weed smart week Dubbo convention centre](#) 1st Aug 8 am – 1 pm 3rd August

2 – 3 August **The cCtton Collective and Trade Show @ Toowoomba**
showgrounds.

11 August 12:00 pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time) [Soil Constraints Virtual discussion - GRDC](#) online format

23rd Aug Xtend flex training Narromine (see above for link)

24th Aug Xtend flex training Warren (see above for link)

28th Aug Xtend flex training Condobolin (see above for link)

SEPTEMBER

13th September 1pm - CSD Growing Better Cotton Series Western Plains Zoo Dubbo

Regards

Amanda Thomas

Regional Extension Officer - Macquarie and Upper Lachlan Valleys | CottonInfo

M 0417 226 411 | E amanda.thomas@cottoninfo.net.au | W www.cottoninfo.com.au



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Disclaimer:

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 presentation or from any errors or omissions in this document



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