



Macquarie bale up

NOVEMBER 2020

SEASON SUMMARY

It's been great to see this year's harvest come off and make it to the silos in most areas, there were few tense moments throughout the season with frost and major weather fronts ready to strike and take the potential away. Rain events leading up to planting enabled some growers to plant on moisture or in front of moisture this season, while its usually a stressful and time consuming operation it can have benefits beyond the water budget as disease can be reduced due to the soil temp being buffered and not dropping down when watering up. The Macquarie has around 17 500 ha reported to be planted to cotton and the Upper Lachlan will have approximatley 1500ha .

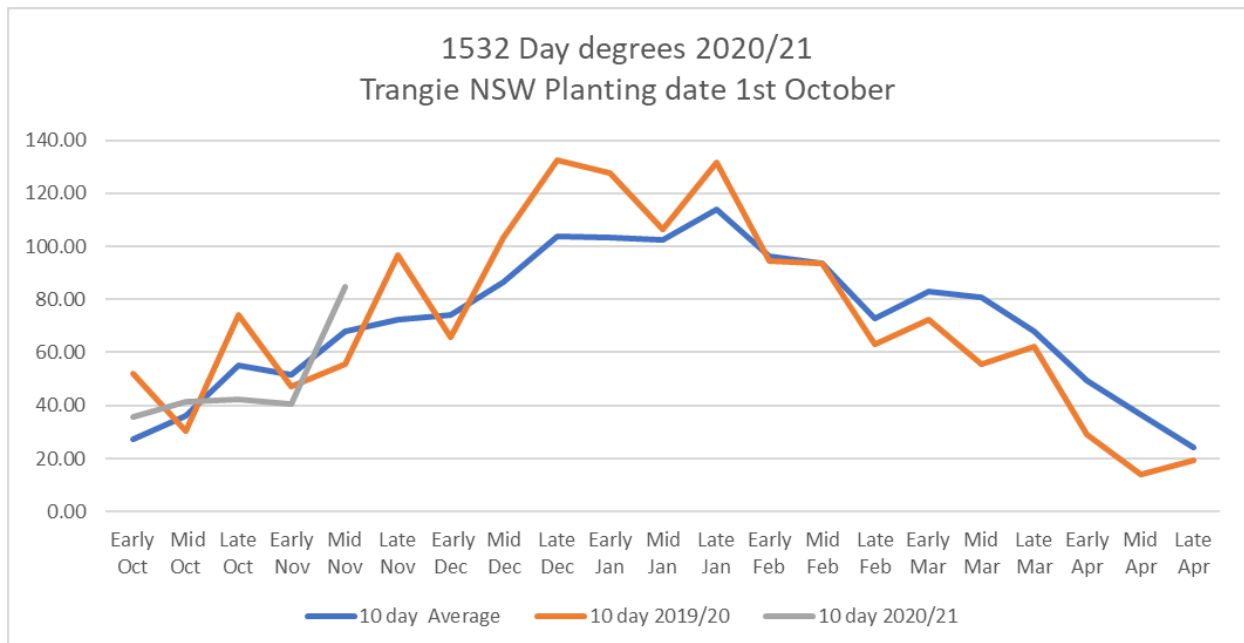


Fig 1: Day Degrees (10 day intervals) (Source : csd.net.au via Kieran O'Keeffe)

ESTABLISHMENT

Establishment is adequate in most areas. Wireworm pressure was higher than it has been in the past few years due to the wetter winter period. There has been a small amount of replant reported.

CottonInfo and NSW DPI supported the industry disease surveys this season in the Macquarie, here is a summary from Duy Le the plant pathologist at ACRI. A total of 11 arbitrarily selected fields were included in our early season disease survey in 2020/21 season in the Macquarie valley. The average seedling stands were between 10 to 14.5 per meter. Common seedling diseases such as black root rot, Rhizoctonia-like rot and Alternaria leaf spot were detected in the valley. Black root rot incidence was mostly below 30%, excepting for several fields where the incidence was up to 71%. Rhizoctonia-like rot incidence was commonly between 25 to 89%. In some severe infection, Rhizoctonia-like rot caused girdles around collar regions of the seedlings; however, most of the infection was superficial and the cotton seedlings can grow out of it. Alternaria leaf spot was minor; the incidence was mostly below 10%. Death of seedlings were also detected in some fields, but most cases were associated with insect feeding damage.

NEW DAY DEGREE CALCULATOR

The CSD website has a new tool to calculate day degrees. The New DD1532 calculator will:

- Provide a “temperature odometer” that you can use for crop management
- Prevent excessive day degree accumulation above 32 degrees, particularly in hot periods that is unlikely to contribute to plant growth and development.

- Remove the need to adjust day degree targets for cold shocks.

CSD collaborating with CSIRO in developing the DD1532 method, through contributing data to validate the equations across the industry. We envisage enhanced functionality and development of this tool and encourage feedback from industry. Simply become a member and then go to <https://www.csd.net.au/ddc>

For a copy of the latest crop info please see the crop check report attached.

Targets for emergence, first square, first flower and open boll will soon be on the CSD website <https://www.csd.net.au/ddc> [Day degree calculator facts on Friday](#)

REMINDER – PLEASE MARK YOUR SENSITIVE CROPS ON SATACROP

Please make sure your crops get listed on the [SataCrop website](#)! It is so important this map gets completed so ALL susceptible crops are marked out easily for spray applicators and farmers to see.

To gain access to the SataCrop website for editing purposes, you will need to email Ben Boughton at PCT-agcloud on ben@pct-agcloud.com A short video to show you how to use Satacrop and add your fields is available at: [SataCrop Video- How to add a field](#).

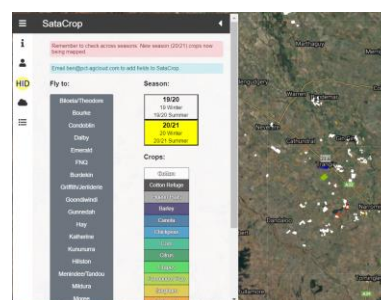


Figure 2. current examples of fields entered Satacrop for this region

With summer spraying starting around the region including fallow and winter crop desiccation sprays, it's a timely reminder to be vigilant when spraying this season. Traditionally the post-harvest pre-Christmas rainfall events have been problematic for cotton growers and off target drift events have occurred with large scale fallow sprays happening. There has been a lot of work go into reducing this occurrence in the Macquarie valley. The Macquarie cotton growers association and Goanna Ag have put up 8 weather stations with inversion towers that have a yes or no visual alert for inversions.

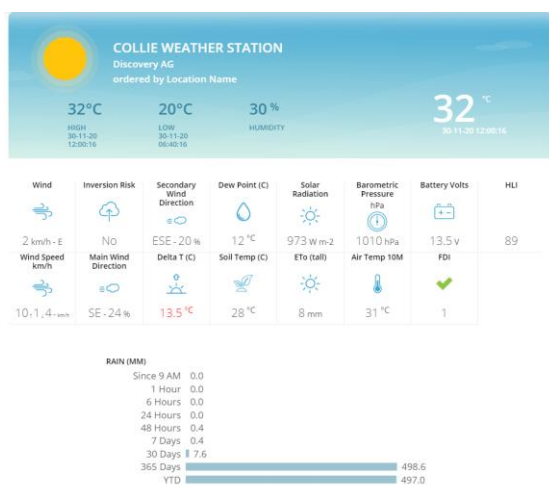


Fig 3. Example of weather station with inversion towers.

EXPORT TO EXCEL	EXPORT TO PDF	SHOW INACTIVE ONLY	(Active and Inactive)
Location Name ↑	Graph	Last	
Bogan Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Braemar Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Burroway Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Collie Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Dandaloo Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Marthaguy Weather Station	📉	27-11-2020 15:40	
Mumblebone Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Nevertire Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	
Nyngan Weather Station	📉	30-11-2020 12:09	

Fig 4. Examples of the weather stations Gonna Ag and MCGA provide free access to.

Step 1: Register Go to [Goanna Ag > Products > Weather Stations \(goannatelemetry.com.au\)](http://Goanna Ag > Products > Weather Stations (goannatelemetry.com.au))

and click on 'register' in the top right hand corner. During the registration process, when prompted to enter the person who will give you access to the sites, enter: **Macquarie Cotton Growers Association**. When prompted to enter farms or locations, enter: None. (Goanna Telemetry will automatically grant you access to all nine trial sites).

- Step 2: Access the desktop or mobile app
Follow the following steps to access the Goanna Telemetry weather station apps:
Desktop: Go to [Go \(goannatelemetry.com.au\)](http://Go (goannatelemetry.com.au)). Enter the username and password you created for yourself at registration.

Mobile app: Go to the Apple Store or Google Play. Search for 'Goanna Telemetry' and download the app. Enter the username and password you created for yourself at registration A training video is available for the app. and click on 'our app'.

We also have another two weather stations sponsored by the MCGA at 'Farrendale' and 'Mt Foster ' please feel free to help your neighbours access these weather stations

http://porosity.com.au/smm/macquarie/mcga_a.html you can open this link on your phone then click on the square with arrow at the bottom then click on add to home screen (the square with a +) as below. Once you have this on your phone you can send it to your neighbours as text

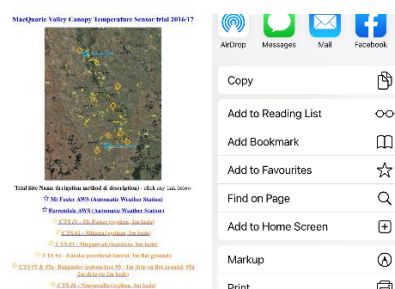


Fig 5: Example of how to save and send the link to weather stations

Please see attached poster regarding spray drift awareness and always refer to [SataCrop](#) for location of sensitive crops.

Also, another great tool that was born and raised in the Macquarie valley and now has been rolled out in other valleys is the SOS group. [Improving On-Target Pesticide Application | Regional NSW \(sos-nsw.com\)](#)

There really is a lot of tools that can help but we need your help to share with those applicators who need it most.

Share the keep the spray on weeds document attached with this newsletter with your neighbours.

REOCCURRING WILT: BE AWARE!

Have you seen fields with the following symptoms?

- The odd plant or patches of plants that wilted and suddenly died with dead leaves usually remaining on the plant.
- Reoccurring patches of dying plants getting larger over past seasons with no explanation for plant death i.e. seasonal conditions.
- Dying plants can be amongst healthy plants.
- Bronzing of leaves and petioles.
- Reddening of the roots and root decay i.e. if plants are pulled out of the soil, the taproot snaps due to root decay.
- May see reddening of the vascular tissue.
- Stem canker/lesions may be present. Keep an eye out for these symptoms this coming season. If you have concerns or plants expressing symptoms, contact your state pathologist: or you local REO

This season has been alarming as we have seen plants confirmed with Fusarium (Fov) very early in the season. Growers and consultants are asked to be alert for plants with symptoms of the potentially new disease reoccurring wilt or FoV or verticillium wilt, it's

important to diagnose as the management tools are different for each. Reoccurring wilt had previously been discovered in Queensland, and after more diagnostics have been completed in NSW it has become apparent that the soil pathogen has been identified in the Namoi and Gwydir regions. [The CottonInfo Fact sheet on Wilt diseases](#) has been updated to provide information on this new disease. It is so important if you are seeing any plants with similar symptoms that you collect these plants and send them into the pathology team for identification. Contact Amanda Thomas if you are unsure of anything and want assistance in doing collections.



Figure 3. Pictures of re occurring wilt for further info go to [The CottonInfo Fact sheet on Wilt diseases](#)

WHERE DO I SEND MY DISEASE SAMPLES?

NSW:

All NSW samples (EXCEPT SUSPECT FUSARIUM) to be sent to:

Attn: Duy Le
NSW DPI
Australian Cotton Research Institute
21888 Kamilaroi Highway
Narrabri NSW 2390
For enquiries, phone: Duy Le: 0439 941 542
or 02 6799 2427

QLD:

All QLD samples (including NSW Fusarium samples) to be sent to:
Attn: Linda Smith
Ecosciences Precinct

QLD DAF GPO Box 267
Brisbane QLD 4001
Large parcel via courier (eg.
TOLL):Basement 3 Loading Dock Joe Baker
Street Dutton Park QLD 4102

For enquiries, phone: • Linda Smith: 0457
547 617 or 07 3708 8456

Note: In NSW, confirmation of the pathogen causing disease in cotton is no longer being outsourced to EMAI laboratories. All samples (except where *Fusarium* is suspected) are to be sent directly to ACRI with attention to Duy Le in NSW DPI. Where *Fusarium* is suspected, send to QLD DAF via the address above.

CSD AMBASSADOR UPDATE NO. 1

18TH NOVEMBER 18TH NOVEMBER 2020



CENTRAL NSW **by Craig McDonald**

Planting of the variety trials commenced in Central NSW on the 18th September at Bourke followed by watering up on the 20th September. Planting continued through October and the last Ambassador site was planted into rain moisture on the 20th October. Overall, this is earlier than the last few years. There is a wide geographic spread on these sites ranging from Bourke in the North West to Condobolin in the south west, Forbes in the South East and Narromine, Trangie and Warren in the middle. There are 10 separate sites this season where data will be collected as part of the CSD variety trials and Ambassador Program.

Some crops were able to be established on rain moisture and others had to be watered up. Unfortunately, there has been some early

hail damage which has affected some of the southern sites

The Ambassador varieties this year include:

Sicot 746B3F, Sicot 748B3F, Sicot 754B3F, and Sicot 606B3F

The following table gives an overview of Planter Uniformity, (the closer to zero the better), Plants per metre establishment and the establishment percentage. These are for the Ambassador varieties in the variety trials and the standalone Ambassador sites. The field condition score is an indication of the actual seed bed at planting. It is on a 1-5 scale with 1 being the best.

Planter Uniformity %	Plants per metre	Plant establishment %	Field Condition Score
0.31	9.62/m	73.5%	2.68

There have been big variations in field conditions this season leading up to planting.

Early season monitoring is now happening as the trials progress. A STEFF (Simulated Timing to Estimated First Flower) comparison will be done in the next update to look at the estimated time compared to the actual First Flower date.

A reminder about the CSD Day Degrees Calculator and the STEFF tools that are available to CSD Members under the Agronomy tools tab on the CSD Website: csd.net.au

CONNECTIVITY PROJECT UPDATE

The MCGA has secured a Grass Roots Grant from CRDC to explore connectivity in our Valley.



Going back to basics, we want to find out where you are at, on farm, with connectivity issues. Having established this we will form a small sub-committee to explore the issues, solutions that have been tried and failed and what are our options for the future. We will explore future grants and what we can learn from successes in other regions.

We know things got worse for many over harvest so if you are affected please take the time to fill out the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNK2J6N>

There is a lot of government funding happening in this space and our aim is to find a solution that will benefit this valley and be in a good position to work with service providers to apply for that funding. These things take a lot of time to explore and we have a lot of research to do before we are in that position. We are looking to get together post-harvest with our subcommittee and work through some of the options we have already investigated.

There has been a very worthwhile project happening in this space in our Valley. Rob Tuck has taken part in the [Farms of the future Pilot program](#) and I highly recommend you watch these two webinars to check out what has been happening on farms in the pilot.

Webinar 2 - FOTF pilot farm overviews

In the absence of large scale on farm field days as planned for the program, the DPI team have engaged Brendan Cooper from Cooper Films in Millthorpe to travel across NSW to create this unique video content. Join the three pilot farm growers, hosted by DPI Project Manager Scott Mckinnon, as we explore the pilot farms and some of the challenges.

https://youtu.be/IR_vc-i20oA

Webinar 3 - Supplier Forum

The suppliers involved in the pilot farms are all commercial businesses currently operating within the NSW farming industry. In the third and final instalment of the Farms of the Future

webinar series, you will hear a summary of the AgTech provided by the suppliers, and key project insights, followed by a thorough Q&A session.

<https://youtu.be/2tN85zLb5I>

WHATS ON.....

COTTON PHYSIOLOGY AND PEST MANAGEMENT COURSE 2020

Learn from leading researchers and industry experts:

- Cotton physiology 101 – really understand a cotton crop.
- The insect pests and beneficials that affect our industry today.
- Insect sampling and plant monitoring.
- Pest control decisions and options.
- What influences the success of pest management in high yielding cotton.
- Emergency disease and plant pest response.

Narrabri Wednesday & Thursday 13-14 January

Leeton Tuesday & Wednesday 19-20 January

Dubbo Wednesday & Thursday 10-11 February

[Cotton pest management \(tocal.nsw.edu.au\)](http://Cotton.pest.management.tocal.nsw.edu.au)

EXPRESS MY BMP WORKSHOP

When : 15th of Dec 10am – 1pm

Where: The Studio in Trangie

Contact [Julie Wise](#) to secure your spot

As always contact me with any questions or information gaps you want me to cover in the next edition.

Cheers Amanda

Amanda Thomas

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