



Information when you need it



the **cq cotton call**

December 2022

Welcome to the December Edition

What's been happening?

December is upon us and another festive season! The rain just keeps coming!! In the past couple of weeks there has been more rain across CQ, some falls of 20mm and some up to 200mm. This has resulted in a couple of irrigations for those that missed most of it and others not irrigated at all yet as the rain comes at perfect times. This means for busy days when it dries out applying fertilizer and cultivating. The dryland cotton that has been lucky enough to be under this rain is blossoming and looking great.



Acres of Opportunity – Banana Station

Banana Station, owned by Mark and Belinda Wilson has this year transformed some fields into Cotton. Farm Manager Josh Connolly has taken on growing dryland cotton and has planted 500 hectares of double skip cotton. Josh believed that taking advantage of a predicted wet summer was too good not to take up, it also is working in with his farm program this year as he keeps developing the land from grazing paddocks to cropping. Its great to see such passion from a new cotton grower and we look forward to following on in their journey.



is a joint initiative of

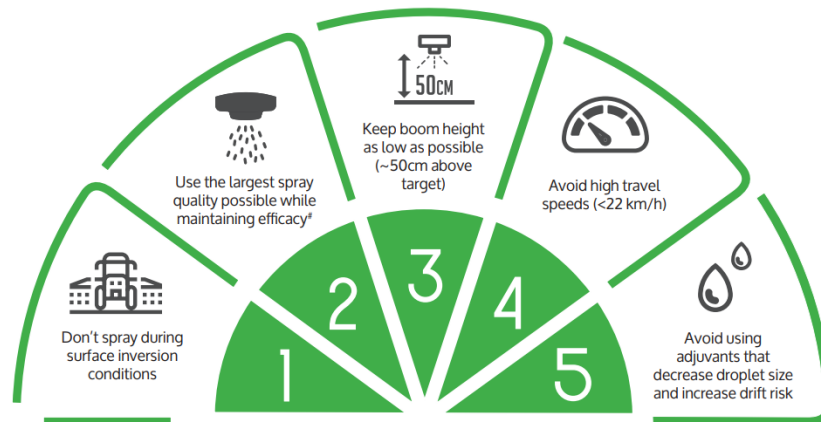


Best Practice

Information and Topics of Interest

Spray Drift Update

Five commandments according to SOS



Observe label directions for minimum and maximum droplet size. Water rates may need to be modified with increased droplet sizes

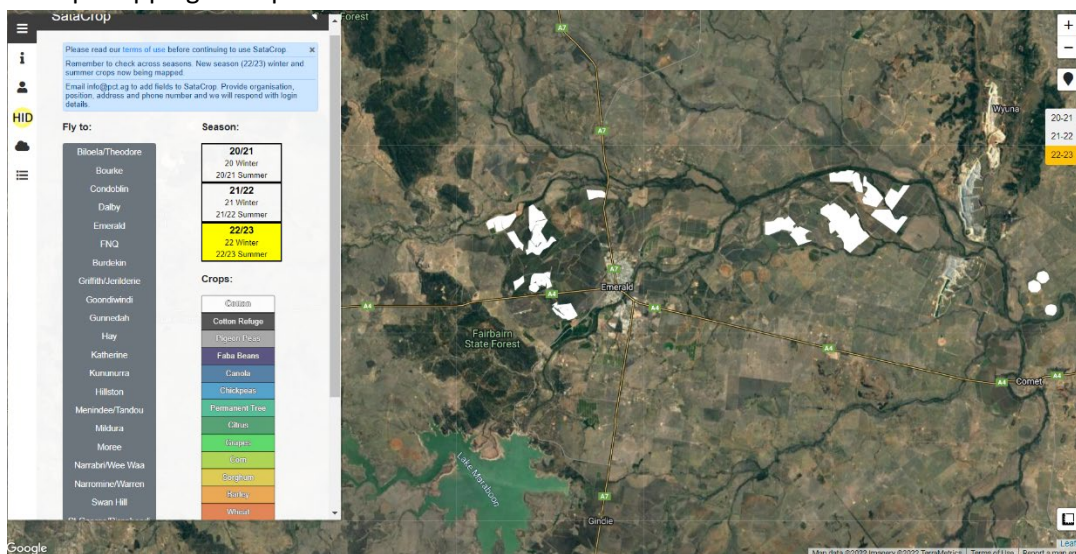
As of mid-December 2022, spray drift has been reported in several cotton regions. With harvest done and fallow sprays occurring it is critical we do what we can to prevent any further spray drift across all valleys. With thanks to CottonInfo Regional Extension Officers, an update and resource PDF has been compiled for cotton grower reference.

The Update includes:

- The 5 Commandments to preventing spray drift
- The importance of mapping crops on SataCrop
- The importance of notifying neighbours of cropping intentions
- **The latest on the Weather and Networked Data (WAND) System - and how you can be involved**
- Videos to view and share
- What's in the pipeline for drift prevention
- Other resources

Click Here to read more: [Spray Drift Update and Resources as at December 2022_0.pdf \(cottoninfo.com.au\)](#)

SataCrop Mapping Example:



Not all branches are made equal

Thanks to CottonInfo IPM Technical Lead Dr Paul Grundy

Research over the last four seasons has examined the impact of early square loss on yield potential found that **square loss during early squaring (9-13 nodes) prior to first flower did not impact crop maturity, yield or lint quality.**

Square loss can be tolerated during early squaring (prior to flowering) because of cotton's ability to rapidly compensate under good growing conditions. This ability to compensate declines during mid-flowering as developing bolls compete for resources, both slowing overall growth and diminishing the plant's ability to produce replacement fruiting sites.

Consequently, mid-season fruit loss is more likely to impact a crop's yield and maturity. Aim to manage square retention from the initiation of the 5th fruiting branch onwards.

Click here to read the full article: [CottonInfo E-news Extra: not all branches are equal \(mailchi.mp\)](mailto:mailchi.mp)



Improving cotton's capability for on-farm experimentation

Improving cotton's capability for on-farm experimentation

Recent advances in precision agriculture technologies have provided a new approach to conducting on-farm experimentation. Called 'spatially distributed experimentation', this approach allows growers and advisers to improve profitability and sustainability by using precision tech to describe in field variability. Growers and advisers can take advantage of this variability to assess where and by how much different practices impact their production.

Click here to read the full article: [CSD | News and Media | Improving cotton's capability for on-farm experimentation](#)



Upcoming Events:

WEEDSMART WEEK DALBY

Date: Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th February 2023

Location: Dalby Showgrounds & farm visits

[More information here.](#)

WEED smart



CQ crop check

AREA	Central Queensland
Crop Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crops ranging from establishment to 25 nodes Some of the earlier crops will be nearing cut-out
Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second irrigation on some farms Some lucky enough to be under rain and have been able to hold off
Insects/Beneficial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing mirid activity – insecticide still being applied in some paddocks with high mirid numbers Increased thrips activity in some areas Some green vegie bugs Heliothis egg lay – medium, high in some areas with wet and cool conditions Lady beetles, spiders, lacewings, red and blue beetles, damsel bug, big eyed bug, parasitic wasps
Weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate level Milkthistle, sesbania and red pigweed Fleabane Feather top Rhodes grass
Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back-to-back fields and those with history showing disease Black root rot and verticillium wilt Not favourable wet and overcast conditions for disease
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High temps over a couple days ranging from 38 – 42 degrees Fruit retention is sitting pretty good High rainfall in some areas

Mirids

What Damage?

Adults and nymphs feed by piercing plant tissue and releasing a chemical that destroys cells in the feeding zone, resulting in the following symptoms:

- localised leaf damage
- terminal wilting of young plants
- deformity (broom shaped)
- shedding of squares and small bolls
- damage to bolls (up to 15 days old) by causing warty growths inside carpel which causes discoloured lint
- malformed bolls, delay of maturity
- reduced lint and fibre quality.



Monitoring and thresholds

Mirids are a very mobile pest and populations can fluctuate rapidly so sampling needs to be done every three days. The [beat sheet](#) is the most effective means for estimating mirid numbers. Monitor for number of mirids as well as for tip damage and fruit retention on cotton plants. Adults cause more damage than the first three nymphal instars while the fourth and fifth instars do similar levels of damage as the adults. Heavy tip damage and fruit retention levels can also have an impact on control decisions.

Thresholds based on beat sheet sampling vary between warm and cool areas due to the cotton plant's ability to compensate for damage.

Warm areas - Early season: 4 mirids per metre. Mid season: 3 mirids per metre.

Cool areas - Early season: 2 mirids per metre. Mid season: 1.5 mirids per metre.

Management

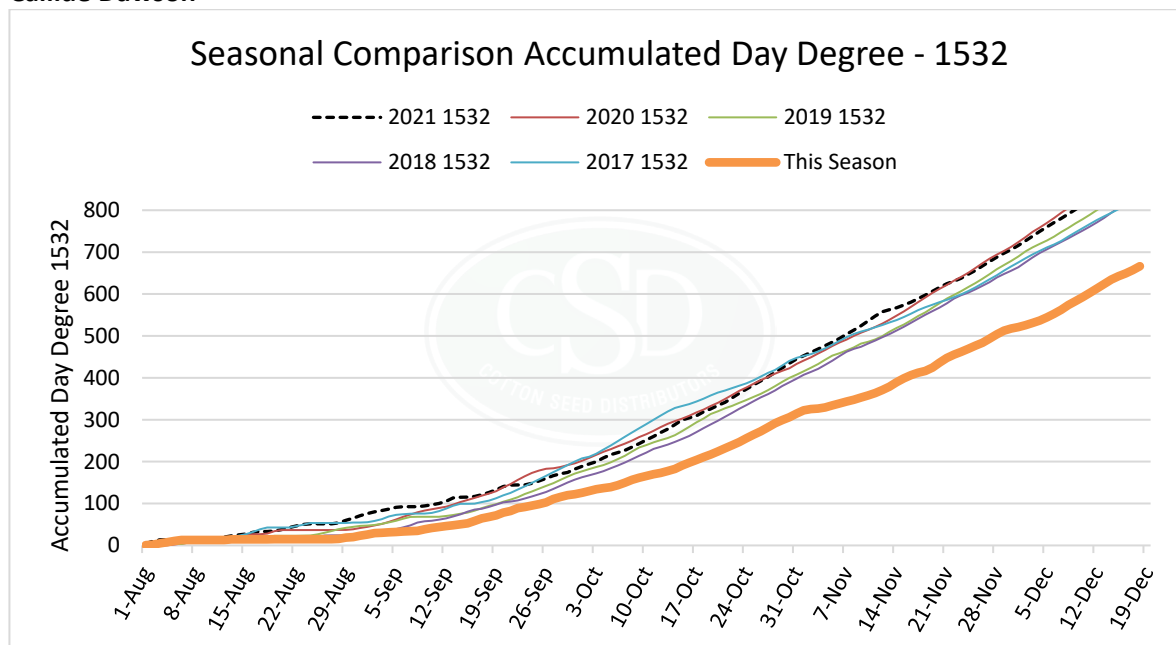
Control alternative hosts including native weeds before crop establishment.

Avoid broad-spectrum insecticides.

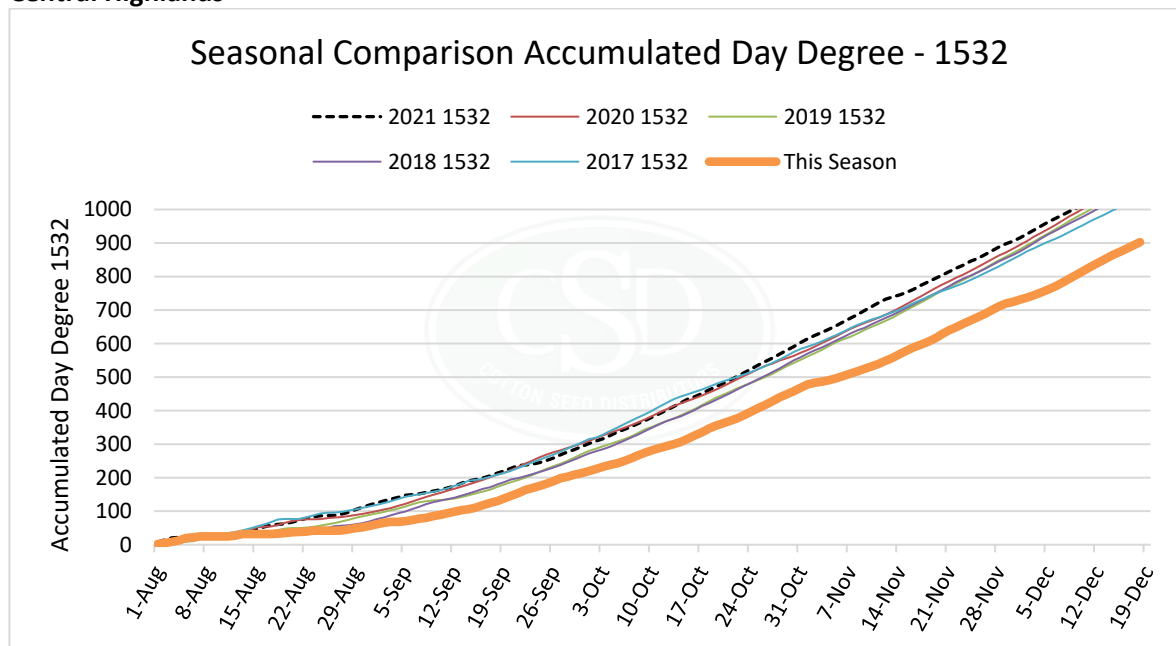
Spray only when both insects and damage are at threshold levels.

For chemical control options, read the [Cotton pest management guide](#).

Callide Dawson



Central Highlands



Seasonal Day Degree and historical data is sourced from Cotton Seed Distributors Day Degree Calculator found at www.csd.net.au/ddc. For more specific day degree and crop management detail for your farm, field and variety check out CottonTracka® at www.cottontracka.com.au

Disclaimer - © Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd 2021. The CottonInfo Crop Check is a summary of cotton crop information gathered from consultants by each CottonInfo Extension Officer (REO) for their valley. This information is collected on a regular basis to share with growers, researchers, and other consultants. The information is just a snapshot in time and does not claim to be a report for each valley; just a summary of comments received. This information is provided as 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.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!!

Kind Regards
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