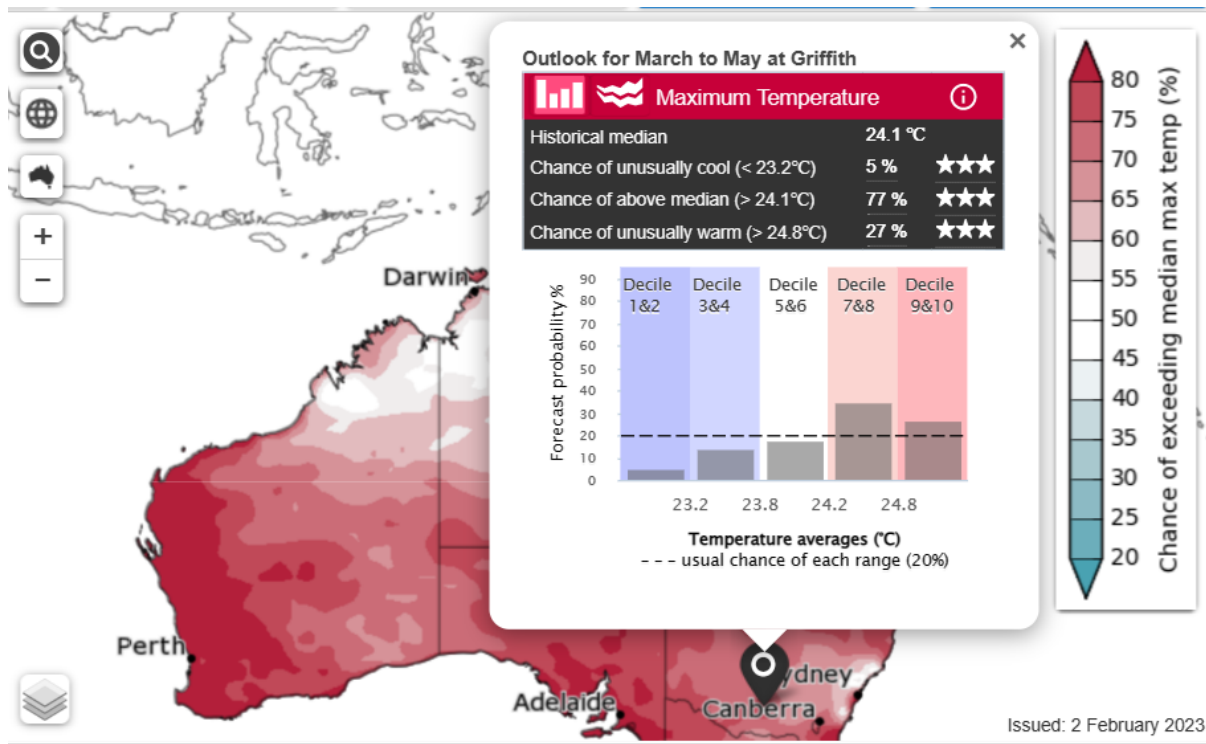




the cotton tale

February 2023 BOM long range outlook



With a later planted crop and below average day degrees so far, we are relying heavily on getting a good finish to the growing season. The long range forecast is looking positive for a reasonable finish with at least average day degrees.

Check out your location at [Max temperature - The chance of above median max temperature for March to May - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/forecasting/long-range-forecasts/3-5-months/maximum-temperature/)

Priming trials

Over the last few seasons, I have been involved with René van der Sluijs (CottonInfo Technical specialist Fibre Quality) in looking at the effect of using a priming rate of defoliant to get a field ready for harvest potentially earlier.

The growers involved have applied 4 replicated strips of Thidiazuron plus oil in a field at 7 Nodes above Cracked boll at 50 ml/ha. This would be 7 to 10 days before the normal trigger of 4 NACB. The whole field then gets a blanket application of defoliant and boll conditioners when the control strips are at 4 NACB.

The modules of the treatment and control were then tracked through the gin looking at the treatment effects on quality and yield.

In summary the data from these trials suggest the following:

- No statistically significant differences in Yield
- No statistically significant differences in fibre quality as measured by HVI.
- Statistically significant positive differences (2 to 4%) in lint turn out.
- Possibility in harvesting one to two weeks earlier to avoid adverse weather conditions and possibility of earlier planting of a winter crop.

There are however still a number of questions that need to be answered.

- All the trials were conducted on Sicot 746B3F and the influence of variety is thus unknown. Hence trials with other popular varieties such as Sicot 714B3F and Sicot 606 B3F should be conducted.
- All the trials were conducted in the Darlington Point area and as such it is not possible at this stage to make a recommendation until the trials are expanded to other areas.

To answer these questions René and I are looking for more cooperators and suitable trial fields this season so please make contact if you would like to be involved.



Primed strips showing up in a recent trial.

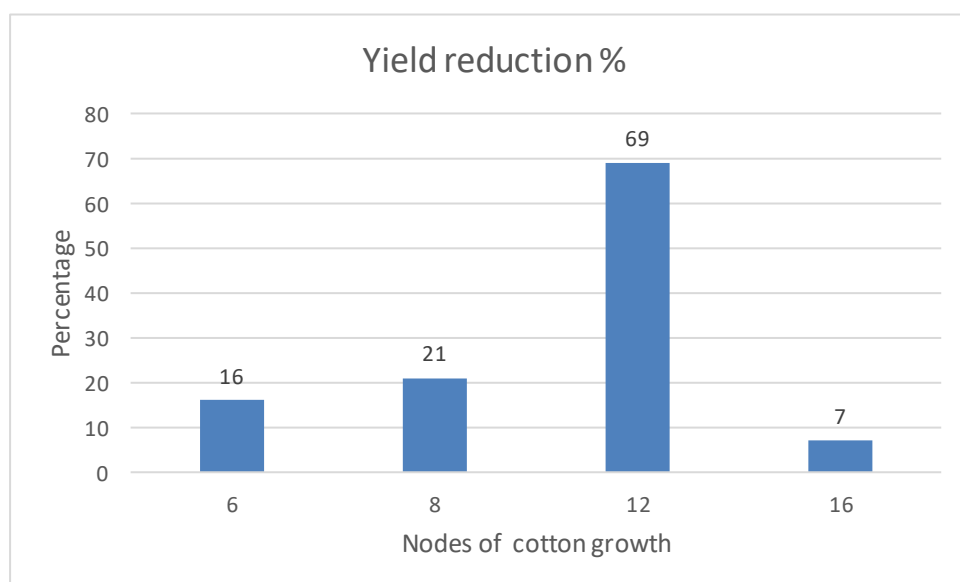
Spray drift damage

Very disappointing to see such widespread spray drift damage in a lot of districts across the state. The amount of impact the events will have on crops will depend on the stage of growth of the crop and the dose of chemical taken in by the plant.

Graham Charles NSW DPI has done extensive trials simulating drift events on cotton from a wide range of herbicides. The full set of results from these trials is available here.

[WEEDpak Herbicide Damage ID guide | CottonInfo](#)

From Grahams work cotton is most sensitive to 2,4-D from 8 nodes to 12 nodes but this is just a guide as the rate used in the trials was 1 % of a typical field rate. Larger doses and multiple events would have more impact. Maturity (50% bolls open) was delayed by 30 days in the 8 and 12 node cotton.



Source: Weedpak, Graham Charles, NSW DPI. Drift simulation with 2,4-D amine at 8g a.i./ha, 1 % of a typical field rate.

The WAND inversion tower system.

Pesticide applications during hazardous surface temperature inversions can lead to spray drift, causing severe damage up to many tens of kilometres away from the site of application. Current regulations prohibit spraying of agricultural chemicals when hazardous temperature inversions exist.

Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) are working in partnership with Goanna Ag to develop WAND - a spray drift hazardous weather warning system that will provide real-time weather data for growers and spray operators about the presence or absence of hazardous temperature inversions.

Data from WAND is freely available for all growers, spray applicators, and any other interested parties. The WAND network, can be accessed and used via the webapp which can be found at www.wand.com.au

A comprehensive user manual is available to explain how to make the best use of the system.

[20221221_wand_manual.pdf](#)

The Wand system is a great step forward in providing information on inversions and spray climate factors. It is a handy tool to use when making spray timing decisions and can give a forecast of what inversion conditions are likely over the next two hours of the application.

Remote tower measurement is not a surrogate for observation of conditions in the paddock. If all reference weather stations say there is no hazardous condition present, but in the paddock, there is clearly an issue, you must always adhere to a safe approach.

Note – it is your responsibility to follow the chemical label advice. WAND cannot assist to determine appropriateness to spray against all label requirements including maximum wind speed.

<https://youtu.be/IgxQItTHHM>

The full complement of 100 WAND towers is close to being fully installed and available.

Events coming up.

IREC Field Day

Thursday 16 February, 7.30am - 12.00 noon IREC Field Station, Stott Road, Whitton
RSVP by 14 Feb 0491 380 399 irec@irec.org.au

NSW DPI Cotton research field day

Friday 3rd March, 8.00 am – 11.00 am Leeton field station 7 Rourke Rd Yanco

RSVP essential to Beth Petty 0409 477 303 or <https://DPIcottonFieldDay.eventbrite.com>

February quiz. Location and name of this fountain?



January answer– Where is this? Broadbeach Queensland



Regards Kieran

Disclaimer:

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