



the **cotton wrap**

December 2022

Crop Update

These cool mornings are certainly unusual for December, and although the cotton is feeling it too, the crops are looking OK! Although quite a late start to the season, the cotton is squaring well, and early indications should have us on track to flower just as we bring in the New Year.

Windy conditions have certainly dried things out and most crops have seen their first irrigation. Rain is predicted over the next few days and will be most welcomed!

Drift

Unfortunately, the difficulties from rain and flood events over the past few months have meant that weed control in fallow fields has been lacking. There is therefore a crossover of harsh chemical use and young cotton crops. For example, Group 4 herbicides used in fallow fields with cotton crops nearby.



Herbicide drift affected cotton.

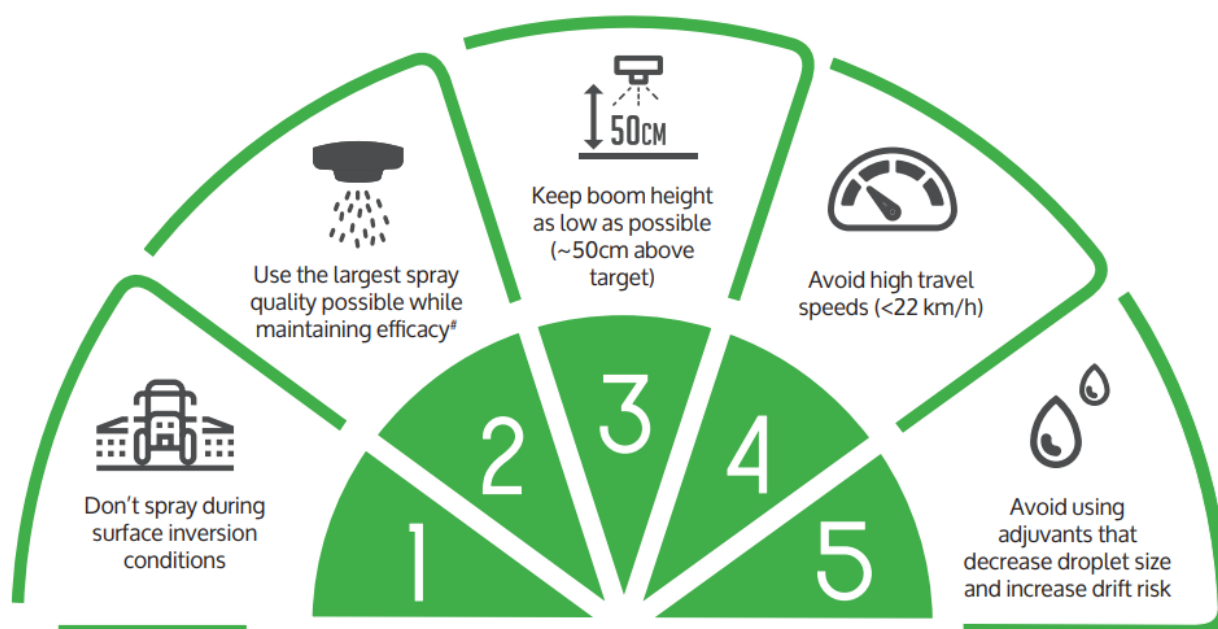
CottonInfo has collated resources for safe spray application. Read more [here](#) and below.

1. Map your crops on [SataCrop](#)
2. Notify your neighbours
3. Follow the 5 commandments according to SOS (Stop Off-Target Spraying)
4. Use the WAND system to check for hazardous inversions

WAND System

WAND (Weather and Networked Data) is a new technology that provides real time weather data about the presence or absence of hazardous temperature inversions. This will take the guess work out of when you can and can't spray and potentially open more spraying hours with greater certainty. 100 inversion towers (10m high, Profiling Automatic Weather Stations (PAWS)) are currently being installed across the eastern Australian grain and cotton regions. The data is provided by the WAND app to your phone, iPad or desktop. If a hazardous inversion is present you cannot spray. However, if a hazardous inversion is absent, you can consider spraying so long as all other label recommendations are being met, ie. wind speed, nozzles, application speed, boom height etc. A short video about the WAND system can be viewed [here](#).

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

The WAND system only detects hazardous inversions. You still need to follow the 5 commandments during all spray operations.

WAND is available to all farmers and spray contractors for free.

GRDC recently held a webinar online 'The new inversion tower network and reducing spray drift risk'. The recording is available [here](#). The WAND system presentation by Gordon Cummings starts at 33 minutes.

Access to the WAND app [here](#).

Crop Check Report

The first crop check report for the season is now available. Check out the CottonInfo website if you have not received it and make sure you are subscribed for regular updates.

Bug Checkers Workshop

On 1st December, 45 bug checkers gathered on a drizzly morning at the ACRI for some jam-packed sessions on all things bug checking! Whilst the weather was a shame, the presenters did a fantastic job altering their sessions for indoors.

A big thankyou to all the presenters and staff who helped. Namely, Sandra Williams (CSIRO), Linda Drynan (NSW DPI), Simone Heimoana (CSIRO) and Trudy Staines (CSIRO).

For presentations and other materials from the workshop please get in touch.





Thank you again to all who came along and supported.



CottonInfo is a joint initiative of



Best Practice



Dates for Your Diary

February

- 15th February – Bayer Field Day, Locharba
- 21st February – Cotton Grower of the Year Field Day, Keytah
- 28th February – 1st March – GRDC Grains Research Update, Goondiwindi

March

- 1st March – CSD Namoi Valley Research & Extension Field Day
- 2nd March – GRDC Grains Research Update, Mullaley
- 23rd March – GRDC Spray Days, Narrabri

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

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