



the cotton thread

Border Rivers, St George and Dirranbandi

November 2020



Students at Dirranbandi State school using flow meters on siphons to monitor how siphon placement affects water flow rate. If anyone is interested in accessing these siphons with flow meters, please contact Andrew Mckay on 0407 992495 or your local CottonInfo REO.

Day Degrees Ramping Up

Recent crop check reports included comments about a slow start to the season in the Balonne and to a lesser extent, the MacIntyre. The past two weeks have turned things around with a rapid accumulation of day degrees and crops with adequate moisture (replant areas included) are growing rapidly. Insect activity in the Balonne is up with thrip and mirid pressure rising. Some control measures have already been implemented for these (mainly mirids).

For both the Balonne and MacIntyre, 13 of the past 17 days have registered above 36°C and the average temperatures for the period since 12 October has jumped by over 2°C. Figure 1 shows the accumulation of day degrees (1532 system) in the Balonne since November 12 when it was inline with the prior season and the ten year average (based on a 12 October start date – mid planting for the region). Figure 2 shows the MacIntyre where the current season was lagging in day degrees compared to prior season and the 10-year average (based on 19 October start date). It has caught up over the period since November 12.

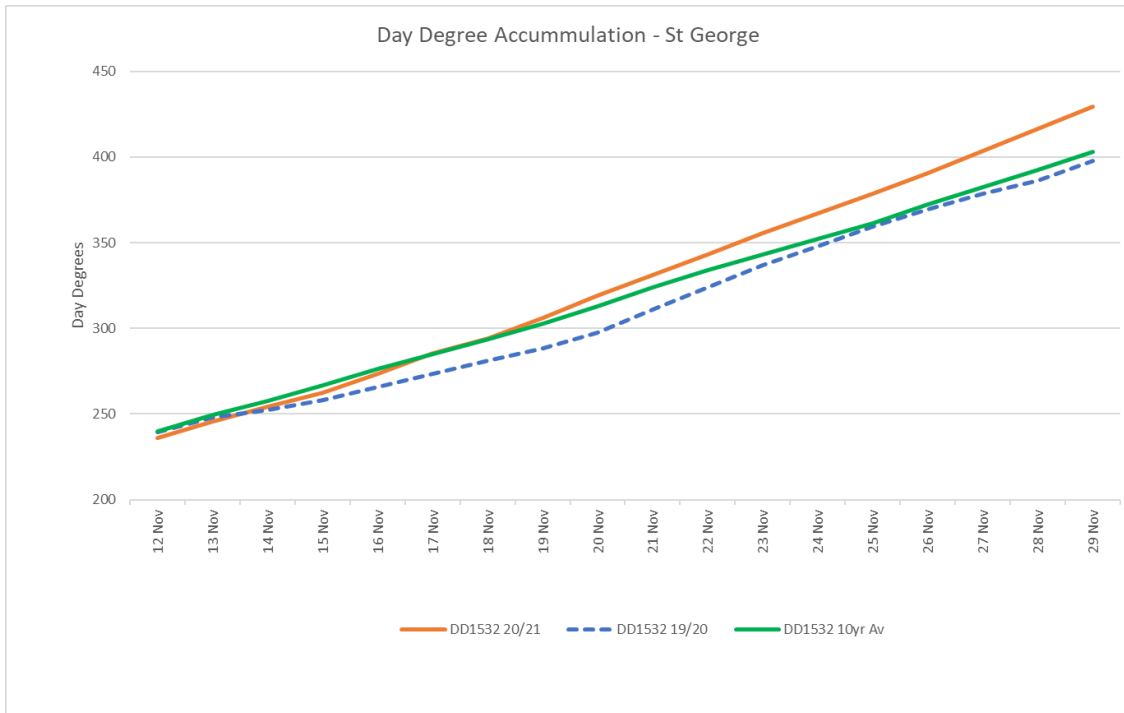


Figure 1: Day Degree accumulation in the Balonne over the period November 12-29, 2020.

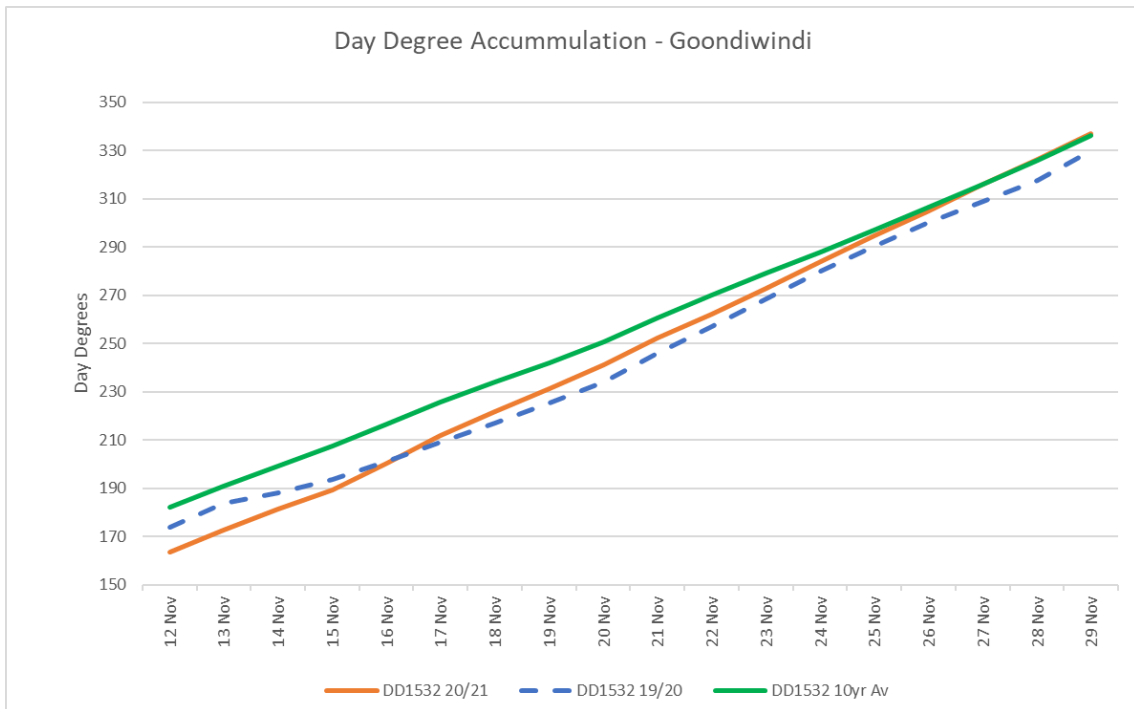


Figure 2: Day Degree accumulation in the MacIntyre over the period November 12-29, 2020.

In crop irrigations have started and growers are carefully watching dam levels (and the sky) as the hot weather impacts water budgets. Pindari and Glenlyon Dams in the MacIntyre region are hovering around 15% while Beardmore Dam near St George is at 33%.

Both regions have recorded rainfall of around 40-50mm over the past month however this mostly fell over a fortnight ago before the hot weather kicked in.

FIRST IRRIGATION

Timing of first irrigation is critical to setting up a plant structure capable of supporting early fruiting growth. The CottonInfo water team have put together an "[Irrigation Toolbox Series](#)" which includes factsheets and videos to help you better understand best practice for an efficient irrigation and to help train/refresh irrigation staff. A recent CottonInfo e-newsletter "[Timing your First Irrigation](#)" focused on this important step in crop management.

Key points include:

- Monitor soil moisture conditions – use a shovel!!!
- Irrigate at around 50% available water WITHIN THE ROOT ZONE
- Check weather forecasts near time of irrigation
- Irrigate at time of hot spell if soil moisture looks limiting
- Do not over irrigate

The newsletter contains further detail and links to a range of other resources including the below Mike Bange Video on the topic (press Ctrl + Click on picture).



Furthermore, see CSD's Facts on Friday from 2019 on the importance of first irrigation [here](#).



FastStart Cotton Establishment Awards. Easy to enter and has a ripper of a travel prize on offer, check out what you need to know at <http://faststartcotton.com.au/faststart-awards/> . **Entries close on December 15th, 2020.**

Cotton POP – new plant population calculator available now

This simple to use app allows the user to quickly and easily scan a row of cotton or manually enter in row counts to calculate average plant population.

The application was developed as part of the the FastStart™ Cotton initiative between Cotton Seed Distributors (CSD) and Syngenta.

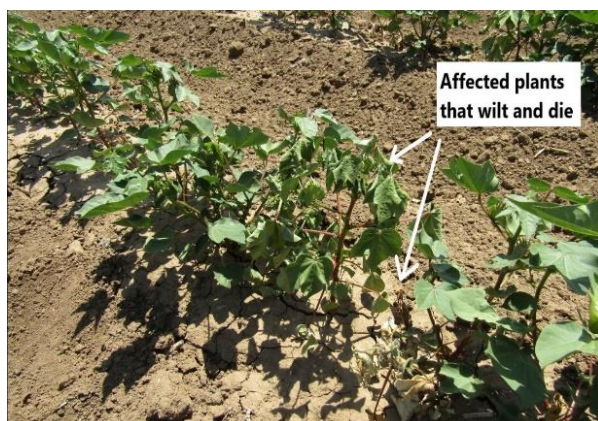
Disease Surveys For the Balonne and Macintyre

Disease surveys for these regions will be conducted over the first two weeks of December. Linda Smith and Linda Scheikowski from Qld Department of Ag and Fisheries will be in the regions for these. Information on the disease surveys, what the objective is and some past results can be found in the recent CottonInfo e-newsletter “[Early Season Disease Surveys](#)”. It is also timely to again ask all to be on the look out for Reoccurring Wilt – a new disease. See following for more detail.

Reoccurring wilt: Be alert

Growers and consultants are asked to be alert for plants with symptoms of the potentially new disease reoccurring wilt.

The [CottonInfo Fact sheet on Wilt diseases](#) has been updated to provide information on this new disease.



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:

QLD DAF: Dr Linda Smith 0457 547 617

NSW DPI: Dr Duy Le 0439 941 542

CottonInfo Blog

[IPM Top Tips for Spring and Summer](#)

Tips on what to look out for (FAW, aphids) and considerations (farm hygiene, insecticide resistance) are covered in this blog. Follow the link in the section heading for more detail.

[Plant health top tips - December: Conserve and increase your beneficial insect populations on your farm.](#)

This blog encourages growers and consultants to know the beneficial insects in the landscape and how to encourage and preserve them. Linking into the publication “[Pests and Beneficials in the Australian Landscape](#)” it provides some points to consider when it comes to the natural enemies of our cotton pests.

Late Plant/Re-plant Considerations

The CSD [Facts On Friday publication from October 27](#) covered considerations for late plant or replant cotton crops.

The [replant calculator](#) assists growers in determining the potential of the current crop versus the potential of a replanted crop.

The Facts on Friday document provides crop management targets for late plant cotton along with the reasoning for those targets. It also discusses important considerations such as variety choice, potential pest and disease issues and challenges in maturing the crop for harvest.

Access to the above replant calculator and publication is restricted to CSD members.

CSD Update November 2020

- Ambassador Advocate for November published – this presents crop progress data from the ambassador sites that are monitored across the production regions. Results are benchmarked and provide insight into the conditions and management techniques and how they correlate to crop yield. This publication is only available to CSD members.
- Case Studies of the new Digital Services Initiative offering from CSD (BARRY and Cotton Tracka) for the MacIntyre (and other regions) were released recently. These provide a retrospective view of how the digital tools performed on crops from last season. Case studies for a number of other regions are also available.

CSD members can find the above using the following link to the [Resources tab on the CSD website](#).

CRDC news

News from CRDC includes:

- The summer edition of Spotlight magazine has been released.
- CRDC Annual Report released

For more details on these, click [here](#).

COTTON AUSTRALIA CORNER

Cotton Matters – key points

- CA general meetings to discuss research projects and proposals were held in hubs and online.
 - Growers encouraged to load crops onto Satacrop website to help prevent spray drift.
 - Cotton Grower conservation projects to boost native parrot habitat.
 - myBMP express workshop held in St George recently
 - Agskilled Cotton Pest management course launched for NSW growers.
 - Cotton Future leaders program applications open
 - Annual wage review outcomes released
 - Floodplain harvesting statement released from NSW government
 - NFF seeking input on Farm Data Code
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- For further information click [here](#).

What's On:

There are several local informal events being planned with details to be confirmed. Keep an eye out for separate flyers for these.

Andrew McKay

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