



# the cotton tale

**December 2018**

## Season progress

Crops are growing well with the warmer conditions over the last few weeks. There have reports of early flowers in some crops and expect more flowering in the next few weeks.

The season is running above average for day degrees in all locations (see attached weather file under the regional day degree tab). Day degree accumulation can be only used as a guide to development as plant activity does decrease above 32 degrees C. A short video here explains how day degrees are calculated and how a change to the base temperature from 12 to 15 gives a better correlation with development

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KalpLtP-Evc>

## Irrigation Layouts – What are your options?

About 70 attended the CottonInfo layouts bus trip on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. We dodged the thunderstorms and had an enjoyable and informative day. Highlights from the day from feedback was



- To see layout options on farms with different soil types and slopes.
- Seeing automation options
- Networking with practical people

Many of the participants are at the stage of making changes to layouts with growers looking at Pipe through bank or Rollover bankless. Some are still processing changes and looking for more information. A series of short videos on layout options will be produced over the coming months.

A number of growers asked for a pay back analysis of any layout changes. This will be specific to individual farms with different soil



types and current set ups. Pay back clearly relies heavily on water availability of individual farms. In some cases pay back can be quick as I can see some fields going from below average yields to above average yields with the ability to control water infiltration.

### Silverleaf whitefly project

Honeydew contamination of cotton from Silverleaf whitefly (SLW) is a major threat to the reputation of Australian cotton. The management of the Whitefly population relies heavily on preserving beneficials (predators and parasitoids) to keep SLW populations in check. That is why SLW is known as the IPM enforcer.

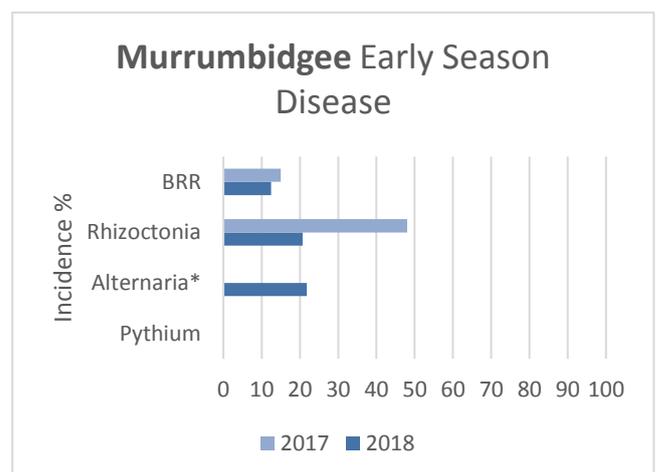
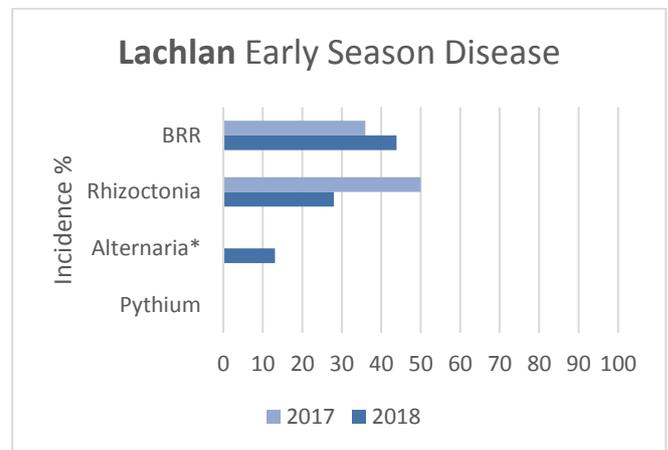
As part of a CRDC project CottonInfo is working with Emma Ayliffe (Summit Ag) to do a release of parasitic wasps across a connected area of cotton farms. Two to three releases of the small wasp will be done by specialised drones at 900 wasps/ha in January. SLW populations will be monitored across applied and non-applied areas with nymphs inspected for successful parasitism.

To view a short video on SLW management follow this link. A lesson from the north to learn from.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ-JG8tvORM>

### BRR trials

The first results are coming back from the early season disease surveys conducted by NSW DPI pathologists.



These incidence graphs will get more meaning when the severity ratings from the survey are completed.

## New appointment



Welcome to Tim Green who will start in the role of NSW DPI Cotton Crop protection officer in mid-January (CRDC/DPI position). Tim has a crop pathology background and is keen to help out with disease and insect management in the south.

## Important date coming up!

**IREC Field day 22<sup>nd</sup> January (See below)**

<https://irec.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019-IREC-Field-Day-Flier-22nd-January.pdf>



**Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season.**

**Regards Kieran**