



the cotton wrap

September 2023

What's been happening?

The winter dry spell, while harmful to some winter crops, created ideal conditions for ground preparation ahead of planting – a significant improvement from the cloddy fields, poorly formed beds, and weed pressure experienced a year ago.

Irrigated fields are well formed but dry, meaning that growers are sending water around the farms early. A mixture of pre-irrigation and watering-up tactics are going on to ensure that water can be sent around the farm to where it is needed. Both Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam have over 90% water supply (water.nsw.gov.au) and growers are planning for a fully irrigated crop.

Warm weather in the last 2 weeks of September has planters hitting the paddocks, and plenty of watering up occurring heading into the long weekend. However, the forecast is showing a drop in temperatures following the rain event predicted for Wednesday 4th October. Caution is advised when planting into cool soils, for instance, after pre-irrigating, or when the forecast is not conducive to germination and crop establishment. Monitoring soil temperatures and forecasts via the **FastStart™ Soil Temperature Network** on the [CSD website](http://CSDwebsite) is recommended. See below for an example from CSD Farms in Wee Waa.



Finally, this season the CSD Trials Program is back bigger than ever and will showcase the new XtendFlex® lines across a broader geographical area of the Namoi. Keep an eye out for several Cotton Catch-Ups and Field Days that will provide opportunities to examine the new lines.

The FastStart™ Cotton Soil Temperature Network

Below is a screenshot from the CSD Website looking at CSD Farms in Wee Waa, NSW. It shows historical data as well as a snapshot of the latest soil temperature at 8am and the 7-day forecast temperature.

This makes up the planting forecast evaluation for the following 7 days in day degrees, shown for both seed density types.

Make sure you check that you have the [Green Light for Planting](#) on the CSD Website.



CSD Farm (Wee Waa, NSW)



Latest temperature
today at 8:00am (AEST)
22.9°C

Planting Forecast
Evaluation
11.2 DD

Normal seed
density evaluation
Poor

Low seed density
evaluation
Poor

7 Day Forecast Temperature

Last 7 days

Last 30 days

Location

	Wed 04, Oct	Thu 05, Oct	Fri 06, Oct	Sat 07, Oct	Sun 08, Oct	Mon 09, Oct	Tue 10, Oct
Maximum	28.4°C	22.2°C	23.2°C	24.9°C	25.6°C	25.7°C	22.6°C
Minimum	12.7°C	6.2°C	6.2°C	9.0°C	8.5°C	9.6°C	11.4°C

How to use the 7-day forecast?

The air temperatures here are used to calculate the Day degree accumulation to provide an assessment of the risk to seed emergence based on day degrees in the table below. Also use this data to establish if there is a rising plane of temperature in the coming 7 days. This needs to be used in conjunction with the day degree accumulation. Risks increase if there is a declining plane of temperature or if temperatures go up and then rapidly decline at the end of the 7 days.

Interpreting the Planting Forecast Day Degree Accumulation

The planting forecast guide provides an indication of the potential air temperature day degree (1532) accumulation forecast for the next 7 days. More day degrees mean there is the potential for more heat to enter the soil.

Normal seed density	Low seed density	Evaluation	
=< 20 DD	=< 29 DD	Poor	
20 - 40 DD	29 - 46 DD	Caution	Warrants extreme caution as a delay in emergence is likely and may impact upon germination percentages and/or exacerbate seedling disease or soil insect attack. Management intervention is encouraged.
40 - 50 DD	46 - 50 DD	Marginal	Considered marginal however ensure other planting parameters and conditions are ideal. Ensuring a rising plane of temperatures, monitor and minimise cold shock events in the next week. Cotton will likely take greater than 7 days to emerge.
> 50 DD	> 50 DD	Good	In excess of 50 DD is considered as the requirement for ideal germination and emergence.

Normal seed density varieties are Sicot 714B3F, Sicot 711RRF and Sicot 812RRF. The rest of CSD's varieties are considered low density seed varieties. This is a guide only to assist growers and consultants of conditions and enable adjustments to planting rates to compensate if the need requires, it is not intended as a accurate tool as it is based on third party temperature forecast and should be utilised solely as a guide to refine the decision making process.

Disclaimer: By using this information provided by Cotton Seed Distributors you accept all risks and responsibilities associated with any losses, damages, costs or other related consequences. Please remember that the data is only a guide to soil temperature trends in your region. You should monitor your own fields prior to planting.

The 2023/2024 FastStart Cotton Establishment Awards are now OPEN!

Now open to growers across Australia's cotton valleys, there's 11 prized for regional winners in the form of \$1000 gift cards to Total Tools. Focused on the pivotal first 70 days of cotton crop establishment, FastStart™ partners CSD and Syngenta will review the entries throughout the course of the season.

On top of the \$1000 regional prize, the two overall winners will also receive a Kincrome tool kit for their ute or workshop valued at nearly \$5000 each.

It is super simple to enter – just complete the form by clicking the link. Don't forget to include a picture of you in your crop! Entries are judged on a combination of the establishment percentage and Planter Uniformity Index (PUI) of each eligible crop. T's & C's [here](#).



CRDC News

The Spring 2023 edition of *Spotlight* takes a deep dive into the 2022 Sustainability Update, the new CRDC 2023-28 Strategic RD&E Plan – Clever Cotton, and the recently announced \$10 million Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (ACDC).

Released earlier this month, access the magazine [here](#).



Using the WAND Inversion Tower Network

GRDC recently hosted a webinar on using the WAND Inversion Tower Network. Covering topics on how to access, interpret and use data provided from the WAND network of inversion towers. Click [here](#) to access the webinar recording.



CottonInfo Moisture Manager

To assist key farming operations, the Moisture Manager will be issuing two fortnightly updates during summer and winter crop planting seasons.

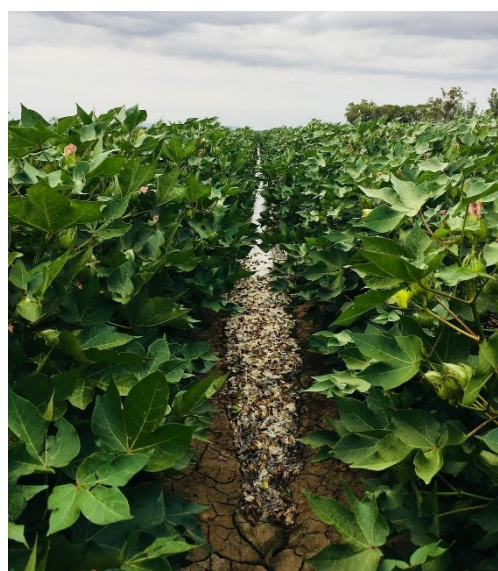
Routine monthly editions continue on Monday's around the 20th, with the second spring planting edition to be released on October 30th. The latest edition, released 3rd October can be accessed [here](#). Make sure you subscribe to ensure you don't miss out!

2024 CottonInfo Calendar!

Quick call out for entries to the 2024 CottonInfo Calendar. This year the theme is "Water in the Cotton Industry". This can be anything from irrigation shots to storm clouds over a dryland field.

To enter, send through your photos to emma.chorley@cottoninfo.net.au by October 15th

Here is some inspiration!



Dates for the Diary

October

- 17th – 18th October – GRDC Herbicide Behaviour Workshop, Narrabri ([link here](#))

November

- 2nd – 3rd November – GRDC Herbicide Behaviour Workshop, Dubbo ([link here](#))

All the best for the upcoming season!

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