



the **cotton tale**

November 2020

Crop check report 20th November (combined report from 9 agronomists)

Crop stage: Early plant 6 -8 nodes, later plant 3-4 nodes.

Insects/Beneficials: Most report low thrip numbers. Some have sprayed for thrips. Leaves healthier where stubble cover is present. Low heliothis egg lays. Sightings of mirids reported.

Weeds: First Roundup spray completed. Pre-emergent programs have worked well.

Disease/Environmental: Very low levels of alternaria, crops now growing out of it. Sand blasting in some fields.

General comments: Good even stand establishment this season. High levels of soil N in fields so N strategy will be on a case by case basis after petiole testing. A lot of crops getting 1st in crop irrigation now.

Yield prediction update

There is a reasonable correlation between 15/32 day degrees in October and November and Southern NSW district yields and as we get close to the end of November the south will end up with around 300 day degrees (1532) accumulated. Geographic differences are now showing up. Still a lot of seasonal influences after November but it does have a flow on effect to final yield. Since data has been collected (last 15 years) this is the fifth best start (Oct/Nov) to a season.



Fall armyworm UPDATE.

As reported in last months newsletter there have been no reports of Fall armyworm establishing in BG3 cotton in Northern Australia. But they have blown into the south with reports of FAW in maize in Hillston.

FAW are highly polyphagous (new word for the week for me – they can establish in a wide range of crops - 350 species!). Broadacre summer crops where FAW needs to be monitored are maize, popcorn, sweet corn, rice, sorghum and pulse crops. FAW also have a high dispersion capacity and high reproductive potential. They are a hard target to hit with contact insecticides as they hide out of the sun in the leaf whorl of these crops. While numbers of moths are low encouraging and adding more natural predators and parasites is the best tactic before spray intervention. The insecticide resistance status of this new pest is also likely to build quickly

<https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/resources/fall-armyworm>

STEFF tool for CSD Members

A handy tool available to CSD members is the Simulated Time To Estimated First Flower.

STEFF is an experimental tool developed by CSD to assist growers and agronomists to estimate the date of first flower. The algorithm that supports the STEFF model has been developed by harnessing the power of the CSD Ambassador Network dataset, made possible due to the vast network of growers who have co-operated with this initiative which in turn benefits the whole of industry.

This season where water availability isn't a significant limitation, the first irrigation is utilized to set up the crop coming into the flowering period. At first flower the aim is to have a healthy actively growing plant with a suitable architecture to develop a boll load. Depending upon region, flowering typically occurs around 60 - 90 DAP or approximately 920 day degrees (base 12) or 584 day degrees when using the new DD1532 method. Aiming for 8 nodes above white flower (NAWF) at first flower is a good benchmark to ensure that your crop is healthy and has the architecture to carry a high yielding boll load.

[CSD | Membership](#)

Getting on top of glyphosate resistant ryegrass

Pleasing to see some paddocks getting a robust herbicide program to get on top of glyphosate resistant ryegrass. The photo on the left was in April after a glyphosate spray. After the photo was used in my May newsletter the farm manager took up the challenge. He used clethodim, followed by 2 litres of paraquat then seven days later 2 litres of paraquat. To make sure this was followed a few weeks later with more Paraquat and Amitrole. Driving down the seedbank numbers for a few seasons can lead to long term benefits.



NSW DPI new wheat and barley information

See attachments on the latest wheat and barley notes from NSW DPI.

CRDC / Managing Climate Variability - Webinar date claimer (10 Dec)

The final webinar in the 2020 FWFA series, this session will open with a project update by Russell Pattinson followed by a summary of project Community of Practice events by Kate Finger (BCG) and comments on project extension by climate comedian/actor talent Dale Grey and esteemed climate dog inventor Graeme Anderson from AgVic. They will then be joined by research partners from the project for an open Q&A panel session.

Go to <http://www.piccc.org.au/resources/videos-webinars/> to register, and add to your calendar!

Cotton Pest Management course

This course has been rescheduled (see attached flyer for details)

- Narrabri Wednesday & Thursday 13-14 January
- Leeton Tuesday & Wednesday 19-20 January
- Dubbo Wednesday & Thursday 10-11 February



October quiz answer:

Feathertop Rhodes grass.

Be on the lookout for this weed as it is well established on roadsides and is making its way on to irrigation farms.

https://grdc.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/142606/grdc_fs_feathertoprhodesgrass_low-res-pdf.pdf



November quiz

Where is this amazing sculpture?

Regards Kieran

Disclaimer:

General guide only, not comprehensive or specific technical advice. Circumstances vary from farm to farm. To the fullest extent permitted by law, CSD expressly disclaims all liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information, statement or opinion in this presentation or from any errors or omissions in this document