



# Macquarie bale up

## AUGUST 2021

### 2021 OUTLOOK

The 21/22 season looks set to be a big year for the Macquarie with around 36 000 ha forecast to be planted to cotton. The general security allocation currently sits at 34% with a good potential for this to rise in September based on inflows. Follow this link to find out the latest information [allocation statements 2021](#). Burrendong dam is currently at 89.8% (26<sup>th</sup> Aug) and Windemere sits at 35.5% Source [Real-time water data \(waternsw.com.au\)](#).

Ground prep conditions have been a bit stop and start with weather events however the start of August was good going and put a dint in things. On that note, winter crops are looking very good at this stage and it certainly has the potential to be similar or better than last season as it currently sits. Ginning is not yet finished so we will hold off until the next edition for the full summary. CottonInfo moisture manager highlights latest season model survey showing climate models are well aligned for wetter tercile rainfall this spring season - adding more confidence to the outcome of seasonal conditions.

Source	Temp Forecast	Precipitation outlook				
		Emerald	Sth Q'ld	N-NSW	C-NSW	S-NSW
ACCESS-S	Warmer nights	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON
UK Met	Cooler	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON
IRI NMME	Normal	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON
ECMWF	Cooler	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON
CMCC	Normal	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Normal	Normal	Above normal SON
JMA	Cooler	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON	Above normal SON

Measure	Indicators	Current status	Forecast trend
Sea surface temps	<a href="#">Niño 3.4</a>	-0.1	Neutral
	<a href="#">Modoki Index</a>	-0.7	Wet
Air pressure	<a href="#">Indian Ocean Dipole</a>	-0.4	Wet
	<a href="#">30-day SOI</a>	+4	Neutral (daily SOI: +3)
	<a href="#">Southern Annular Mode</a>	0	Neutral/wetter

Table 1 : Source CottonInfo Moisture Manager, 23 August (to subscribe [click here](#)) [View this email in your browser](#)



## AMBASSADOR NETWORK – 2020/2021 SEASON SUMMARY

Each season for the past six years CSD has been collecting data from Ambassador sites spread across the whole cotton industry. There are at least 338 data points collected from each site to put together the Ambassador information.

Operation	Season Summary	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	6 yr Average
Planting	Field condition score	3.25	2	2.4	2.6
	Planting date	5/10-20/10	14/10-13/11	27/9-10/11	27/9-13/11
	Seed wet date	6/10-21/10	15/10-14/11	28/9-11/11	6/10-1/11
	Est Method	Rain/Water up	Water up	Water up	watered up
	Planting speed km/h	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.7
	Seed Depth cm	3	2.5	2.6	2.7
	Rate kg/ha	13.8	13.7	13.2	12.8
	Plants/m	11.9	10.7	10.62	11.1
	Est percentage	76.7	73.7	74.5	77.3
First Flower	First flower date	28/12-08/01	29/12-21/01	18/12-16/01	12/12- 21/01
	1st Flower DD Base 12	899	998	863	905
	1st Position ret.%	74.4	89.3	86.3	84.1
	NAWF	8.7	8.52	8.3	8.2
Cut Out	Cut out date	01/02-09/02	31/01-17/02	16/01-18/02	29/01-23/02
	Day Degrees at Cut out	1366	1627	1468	1528
	Length of flowering days	35	39.3	32.5	40
	Total Nodes	24.6	26.1	23.6	24.2
	Squaring nodes	16.8	18	17	16.9
	Plant Heights cm	101.8	99.7	98	96.3
	Total bolls/m <sup>2</sup>	159.7	150.5	153.2	143.4
End of season	Final Height cm	101.1	94	99.5	96.3
	Total Nodes	23.5	24.2	24	24.1
	Retention % 1-12	54.9	52	50.6	52.8
	Final boll count/m <sup>2</sup>	146.8	152.3	139	149.5
	Mainstem fruit %	59.3	46.5	50.1	56.5
	Outer fruit %	21.7	19	24	21
	Vegetative Fruit %	17.2	32.2	26	20.5
Defoliation	Defoliation date	28/03-20/4	17/04-24/04	18/03-24/04	03/03-24/04
	Length of season Days	176	174.6	165	166.7
	Total in crop irrigations	6.5	8	8.6	8.5
	Pre plant N kg/ha	149	118	97	94.6
	Post plant N kg/ha	128	179	118	161.7
	Total kg N/ha	270	300	215	257
Picking	Yield b/ha	14.19	10.3	11.82	12.53
	Boll weight gms/boll	2.44	1.89	2.1	2.27

Table 3: Season summary of Ambassador sites in the Macquarie Valley

The information provided here is some of the key points from each season along with the 6-year average. All the Ambassador data above is from the Macquarie Valley. It is from irrigated fields managed commercially.

Each season there has been 4-5 sites spread across the valley covering Narromine, Trangie, and Warren. Some sites are stand alone and others are embedded within variety trials. During the drought years there has been more sites around Narromine due to growers having bore water licences and general security allocations being low. The ambassador varieties vary from site to site and information is not based any one variety.

CSD will be producing a 2020-21 CSD Ambassador Network Program Key Learnings and Season Summary which will be available to CSD members. In case you missed the online vidcasts from the Cotton Management Tour (CMT) they are all on the CSD website under each growing region. If you're not already, become a member and get access to all the information plus many more tools and info by heading to [CSD | Membership](#). If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Craig McDonald on 0484 513 556.

## MOUSE WATCH – GET THE HOME SCHOOLERS ONTO THIS ONE.

While mice are generally less active over winter, now is a good time to start thinking ahead and planning how you can protect your crops before harvest. We saw how quickly numbers built when food supply was abundant last summer – this season looks set to produce the same with grain and hay probably going to be in good supply. With mice numbers likely to increase as we move into spring, the first step in any effective control program is to detect early when populations are increasing in your paddocks. What the steps you need to take now to make sure we are ready for them this season?

1. Identity and count the active burrows - To look for active burrows, walk a transect of 100 metres across the crop and count active holes in a 1-metre-wide strip. This gives an area assessed of 100 square metres but should be repeated a number of times across the paddock. Active holes can be identified by sprinkling talcum powder around holes and inspecting the level of disturbance the following morning.
2. Place the chew cards as per the instructions on from the link below – it's just a matter of cutting up the cards and soaking them in canola oil – and placing them in the field that you are monitoring <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/mice/mice-monitoring>

Go to the LLS and GRDC for all the latest information. There is also funding available for baiting both on farms and in homes. Up to \$10 000 can be applied for under the new scheme.

NSW Rural Assistance Authority will administer the rebate program. For more information about the zinc phosphide rebate program visit [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au). For information about household and small business rebates visit [www.nsw.gov.au/mice](http://www.nsw.gov.au/mice)



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Best Practice





Pic 2: Mouse Burrows and chew cards ( source LLS website)

## NEW MYBMP MANAGER

Rob Crothers has taken on the role of myBMP Manager for Cotton Australia. Rob was formerly the Regional Manager for Cotton Australia for the Darling Downs. He will work closely with Nicole Stott and takes over from Rick Kowitz

### Rob Crothers

myBMP Manager

Business Lead focusing on the grower relationships and participation

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### Nicole Scott

myBMP Customer Service Officer and as such is responsible for the management and operations of the site and supplying growers with quality and timely support

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## CHECK FOR SOIL PESTS PRIOR TO PLANTING

A recent [CottonInfo e-newsletter](#) focused on how to check for soil pests prior to planting. Soil pests such as wireworms and, occasionally, earwigs can decimate plant stands while post-planting control options are largely ineffective. It is better to get a handle on numbers prior to planting and implement control measures such as in-furrow insecticide sprays at planting, if required.



The true **wireworm** is a soft-bodied, cream-coloured larva with a flattened, dark brown head. 20mm (Photo: L. Wilson)



Several species of false wireworms may occur in any particular crop, depending on locality, soil type, organic matter and tillage practices. Larvae feed on germinating seed and chew on seedling roots and shoots, resulting in patchy stands. 35mm (Photo: L. Wilson)



The black field earwig can be a pest and a predator. They can be a seedling pest in a wide range of crops, and also a predator of larvae, pupae and wireworm. 14mm (Photo: K. Power)



Adult true **wireworms** are grey to brown elongated beetles that jump and click when disturbed. They are known as click beetles. 25mm (Photo: J. Wessels)



Adults of the large false wireworm (20mm - left) and the southern false wireworm (9mm - right). (Photo: D. Ironside)



The common brown earwig is a nocturnal predator of caterpillars. 24mm (Photo: K. Power)

### How to check?

Digging randomly in the soil is generally ineffective and **bait sampling** 3-4 weeks prior to planting is regarded as the most effective technique.

Bait sampling involves the burial of soaked grain or cut potatoes at several (or more) sites in a field for 5-7 days then checking for the presence of the pests or damage to the bait (easier to see with the potato). The baits attract pests to the site so that they can be identified in the soil. Bait sampling guidelines are outlined in the [Cotton Pest Management Guide 2020-21](#) (CPMG) and a video on how to conduct bait sampling is available on the [CottonInfo Youtube](#) channel.

### How Many is Too Many?

While there are no specific thresholds developed for cotton, summer grain crop thresholds can be used as a guide. One or more wireworm larvae per bait is considered damaging and 2-3 earwigs per bait (50 across 20 baits) is likely to warrant control measures. See the [CPMG](#) for more detail and control options.

### MOUSE BUSTER GOLF DAY

It seems like a lifetime ago but on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July the MCGA and Narromine golf club hosted the Mouse buster golf day. The day was a huge success and we had to turn away players to keep our numbers within the Covid restrictions at the time (please note there was not a lock down or tight restrictions on when this was hosted, and golf is an exempted sport). The aim of the day is to have fun and raise much needed funds for the Golf Clubs at Warren, Trangie and Narromine and it hit the

target square on. We had live auctions and great raffle prizes that were all donated and amazing support from the cotton industry sponsors. We raised over \$8000 for the day and will present the clubs with their cheques when we get out of these lock down conditions.

Our MCGA committee really worked well together and got this event happening in trying times. We are so glad we did as for many it was one of the last social outings before things changed and our region was placed under tough restrictions and then total lockdown.





Cheers Amanda

**Amanda Thomas**

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