



Information when you need it

the **cq cotton call**

December 2023

Welcome to the December Edition

What's been happening?

Christmas is almost here again! It feels like it was not long ago that I was writing the Christmas edition for 2022 and hoping everyone would stay healthy in 2023. This year has also had its challenges, with water scarcity and a dry winter, but we are positive and excited for the 23/24 season after a record-breaking year for the CQ region in the 22/23 season.

The recent rains in the Central Highlands, Callide, and Dawson Valley were a welcome sight for the cotton growers.

Here's hoping that the weather continues to cooperate and that 2024 brings even more success, laughter, and good health to you and everyone in your community.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your loved ones, indulging in delicious food and having some time to relax - although cotton doesn't always give us much of a break!!

May 2024 bring you all joy and good health. 🌲 🎉



CottonInfo Improvement Survey

Below you will find a link to our CottonInfo Improvement Survey. If you could find 5 minutes to complete the survey that would be great. To ensure we are heading in the right direction and delivering what Growers need, it is essential we receive your feedback. Please note that the survey is anonymous.

The CottonInfo Improvement Survey is part of a continuous improvement process being undertaken by CottonInfo at the request of partners CSD, CRDC & Cotton Australia. The key purpose is to ensure CottonInfo meets the needs of growers and the wider industry moving forward. CottonInfo includes the myBMP program, research and development and extension – and we'd really love your input. Please remember to hit submit at the end of the survey! Thanks in advance.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE: [CottonInfo Improvement Survey \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)



Upcoming Events

Coming into early 2024 keep a look out for some field days hosted by your local agents and our CSD XtendFlex® field walks. Times and Locations will be confirmed which we will keep you updated on! If you have anything specific or topics that your regions need or would like, please reach out and let me know.

The NIR Nutrient Analysis Initiative -Richard Williams Project



In the past week we kicked this project off in CQ and collected leaf and petiole samples across the region to start the process of building a robust algorithm. This will be continuing in other regions to get an effective collection across the growing regions of Australia.

The RWI is driving a new project called the **NIR Nutrient Analysis Initiative**. This initiative aims to deliver a new approach to testing leaf and petiole nutrients mid-season. This season's efforts are a collaborative effort between Cotton Seed Distributors, Incitec Pivot Fertilizers, AMPS Agribusiness and Hone. Read more:

[The NIR Nutrient Analysis Initiative - A Richard Williams Initiative Project - Cotton Seed Distributors \(csd.net.au\)](https://csd.net.au)

National Soils Survey: farmer & ag-industry survey of knowledge and extension gaps and opportunities to better manage Australia soils

Please help Melbourne Uni know what you see as missing in soil research, development, and extension in your region by filling out this national survey. So far there have not been a large number of cotton growers respond. This survey is part of a Regional Soil Coordinator project that aims to understand the current gaps in soil: knowledge, management, adoption, and extension practices. The aggregated (anonymous) results from this survey will be published in a report for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Should you agree to participate, the survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and consists of 24 multi-choice questions, with optional space to add more details if desired. Click the link to access the survey:

https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6JSMQIYe7PnF2YK

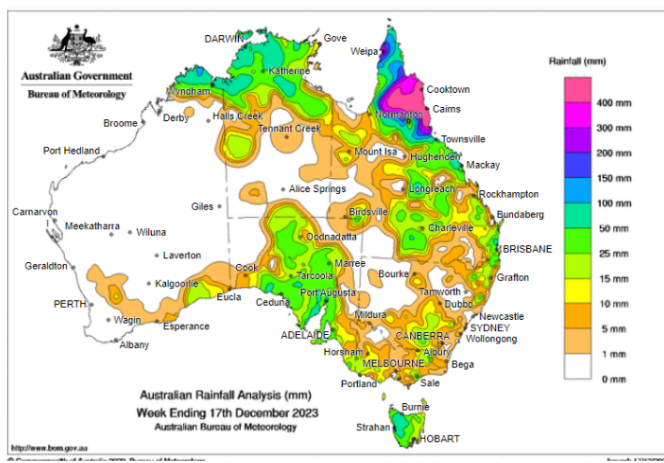
Information and Topics of Interest

CottonInfo Moisture Manager

[CottonInfo Moisture Manager - neutral rainfall outlook to March as high temps continue \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Australian rainfall (week ending 17 December)

Storms throughout central eastern Australia, but largely offset by hot daytime conditions. Maps courtesy: <http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/rain/index.jsp>



Seasonal Model Survey (Jan-Feb-Mar)

Despite El Niño, models now consistently favouring neutral conditions for Eastern Australian growing areas. Temperature predictions show a similar trend for warmer-than-normal conditions.

Source	Temp Forecast	Precipitation outlook				
		Emerald	Sth Q'ld	N-NSW	C-NSW	S-NSW
ACCESS-S	Hot	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
UK Met	Warmer	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
IRI NMME	Warmer	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Wet
ECMWF	Warmer	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
CMCC	Warmer	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
JMA	Warmer	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Spray Drift Update

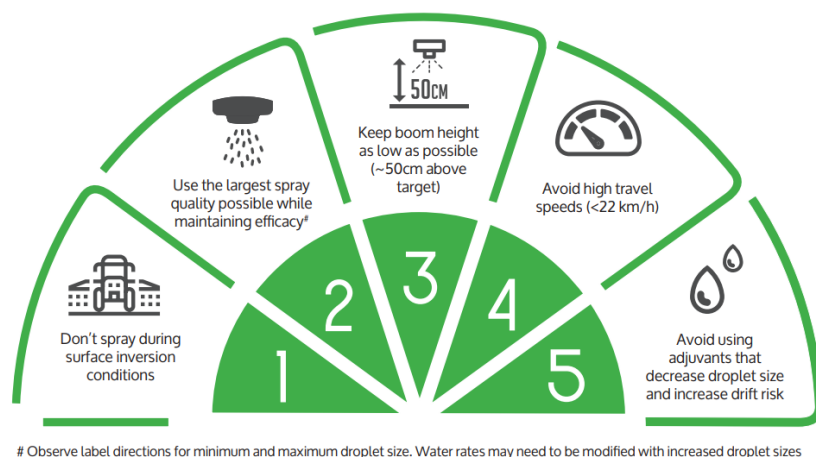
As of mid-December 2023, spray drift has been reported in several cotton regions. With harvest done and fallow sprays occurring it is critical we do what we can to prevent any further spray drift across all valleys. With thanks to CottonInfo Regional Extension Officers, an update and resource PDF has been compiled for cotton grower reference.

The Update includes:

- The 5 Commandments to preventing spray drift
- The importance of mapping crops on SataCrop
- The importance of notifying neighbours of cropping intentions
- **The latest on the Weather and Networked Data (WAND) System - and how you can be involved**
- Videos to view and share
- What's in the pipeline for drift prevention
- Other resources

Click Here to read more: [Spray Drift Update and Resources as at December 2022_0.pdf \(cottoninfo.com.au\)](#)

Five commandments according to SOS



Cotton Australia Drift reporting - Snap Send Solve App

Cotton Australia has a new tool for easy reporting of spray drift which helps cotton farmers to photograph and report drift incidents so other growers and industry stakeholders can be alerted as quickly as possible.

Growers first download the App and then sign into the Cotton Australia group.

The [step-by-step guide](#) is available on the [Cotton Australia website](#) and the password/code is Cott123.

Once you are signed in, you can take a photo of spray drift damage or evidence and send it to Cotton Australia for appropriate action. You can also give approval for Cotton Australia to refer the incident to the relevant authority for investigation.

It allows Cotton Australia to provide the relevant authorities real-time mapping of spray drift incidents so that they can take appropriate action to prevent further drift incidences.

Setting Up Private Reporting Mode Step by Step Guide

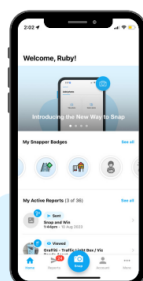
Snap
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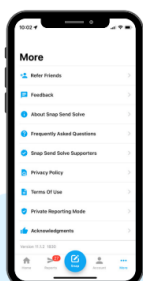
Download the Snap Send Solve app free from the App Store & Google Play

Download on the App Store

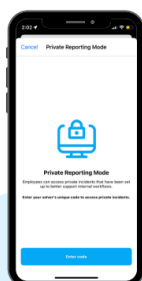
GET IT ON Google Play



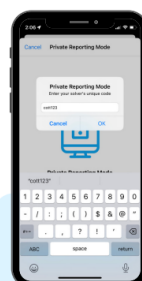
2 Select 'More' at the bottom right corner of the screen.



3 Select 'Private Reporting Mode' from the list of options.



4 Select 'Enter Your Authority's Code'.



5 Insert code 'cott123'. This code only needs to be entered once.



6 Start a report by selecting 'Report Now'.

Cotton industry leader to lead CottonInfo into 2024 & beyond

After an extensive recruitment process, Dr Janelle Montgomery has been named as the new Program Lead for the Australian cotton industry's extension program, CottonInfo.

An industry leader in her own right, Janelle is a familiar and trusted face, having been part of the CottonInfo team since its establishment in 2012; first as a Technical Lead for water use efficiency, then taking on the Regional Extension Officer (REO) role in the Gwydir Valley in 2017.

Based in Moree, Janelle has managed the REO team for the past five years, and said she feels incredibly excited by the opportunity to take on the Program Lead position.

"I've built a career on research and development and making sure that growers come on the journey too, by helping them to improve on-farm efficiencies and practices," Janelle said.

"It's been such a privilege to be able to do this over my years with CottonInfo promoting best practice on the ground. Now being able to further promote this by helping to set the strategic direction of CottonInfo is something I'm very much looking forward to," she said.

CottonInfo is a joint partnership between the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC), Cotton Seed Distributors, and Cotton Australia. The Program Lead role is funded by CRDC.

CRDC Acting Executive Director Allan Williams said Janelle's appointment reflects her incredible mix of research, development and extension experience and genuine passion for the Australian cotton industry.

"The CottonInfo program is something that other cotton growing areas of the world look at with interest and envy, and Janelle has played a significant role in building the program's strong reputation," Allan said.

"Throughout her decade-plus association with CottonInfo, she's worked tirelessly to not just support growers and consultants, but also the three industry partners who jointly facilitate the program," he said.

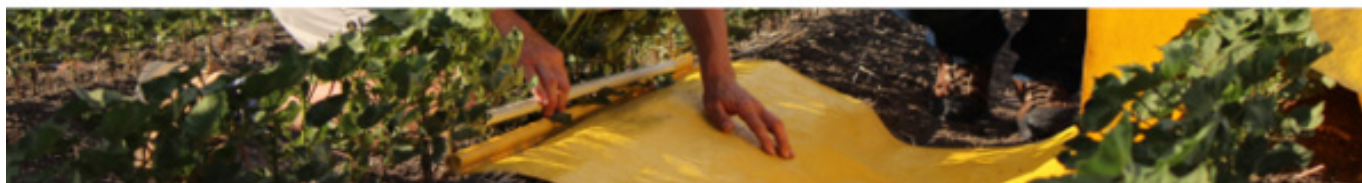
"To have someone as respected and passionate as Janelle leading CottonInfo into its 12th year is a massive advantage for the cotton industry, and on behalf of CRDC and the CottonInfo Management Committee, I welcome her to the new role."

Janelle (pictured below) officially started on Monday 4 December, 2023.





Information when you need it



CQ crop check

AREA	Central Queensland
Crop Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crops ranging from establishment to 26 nodes. Flowering an early boll set Some of the earlier crops are @ cut-out
Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigations continue and working around the rain and storms.
Insects/Beneficial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing mirid activity – insecticide still being applied in some paddocks with high mirid numbers. Thrips activity in some areas Some green vegie bugs Lady beetles, spiders, lacewings, red and blue beetles, damsel bug, big eyed bug, parasitic wasps
Weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate level Milkthistle, sesbania and red pigweed Fleabane Feather top Rhodes grass
Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back-to-back fields and those with history showing disease Black root rot and verticillium wilt Not favourable wet and overcast conditions for disease
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have had high temps over the past month ranging from 38 – 42 degrees Fruit retention has declined particularly in the highlands with 10 days of overcast stormy conditions a couple of weeks ago Continued high rainfall in some areas Looking like a wet Christmas – let's hope for some afternoon storms and sunny days!

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Kind Regards
Kim Stevens

Regional Extension Officer | Central Queensland | CottonInfo

M 0422 786 602 | E kim.stevens@cottoninfo.net.au | W www.cottoninfo.com.au



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