

MEET YOUR COTTON RESEARCHER

Dr Graham Charles
Research Scientist, NSW DPI

PROFILE

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RESEARCH AREA

Weeds

CRDC Research Project
***Scientific & CottonInfo Weed
Technical Leads
(July 2022 - June 2025)***



WHAT'S YOUR BACKGROUND?

I am off a mixed farm near Canowindra, I've always been around farming and have been fascinated by the challenges of developing integrated, sustainable and profitable mixed farming systems. I completed a Rural Science degree at UNE and was most interested in the interplay of grazing and cropping systems.

Spent a couple of years with NSW DPI at Bega working in cropping and pastures and then went back to UNE to complete my Masters degree looking at the interaction of grazing management and pasture establishment – competition and weed management turned out to a major part of this equation.

From there, I've spent the past 36 years working on weed management in cotton. While I enjoyed working in pastures, I became frustrated by the huge lag between research and adoption in the grazing industry.

Working with cotton was a much more satisfying option, where cotton growers and consultants are very innovative and quick to adopt and develop sound research findings.



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TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT ...

The project centres around support for the cotton industry, with emphasis on the emerging industry of the far north.

The project focusses on benchmarking weed numbers and issues for the cotton industries of the far north, looking for options to remove cotton plants with herbicides at defoliation without impacting yield or quality (might not be possible), identifying issues with residual herbicides going to or from cotton crops, and further developing the weed control threshold for cotton into a product that can be easily used by cotton growers.

HOW WILL IT BENEFIT GROWERS + INDUSTRY?

All aspects of the project directly relate to issues all too frequently faced by cotton growers, ranging from understanding and avoiding crop damage from herbicides applied to previous crops and fallows, to managing herbicide resistant weeds in a no-till system where residual herbicides are a problematic option.

Expansion of the cotton industry into the far north is important for the development and sustainability of the whole industry. This work is important to supporting this development.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU AREN'T RESEARCHING?

Outside of cotton my life is around my family and my own small, mixed farm – where I spend all too much time controlling weeds!

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT WORKING IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY?

The willingness of the industry to rise to each challenge and think outside the box.

For further information:

Visit www.cottoninfo.com.au



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