



the **cotton tale**

22nd May 2020

What the agronomists are saying

- It is estimated about 30 - 40 % of the crop has been picked.
- Most yield estimates are in the 10 to 11 b/ha range.
- A few fields above and below this range.
- Early turnouts of 41 -42 %. Modules are weighing around 2250 kg which gives 4 ginned bales a round module.
- Field conditions are wet. Compaction will have to be managed. See link [here](#)



NSW DPI Leeton farm Cotton trails (6th May). N trials (John Smith) on right and time of sowing trials (Hayden Petty) in middle of photo.

War on Weeds feature

Meet the researcher



Eric Koetz NSW DPI Position: Research Agronomist, Weeds. CottonInfo Technical Lead (Weeds)
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Title of research project

DAN2004. Improved management of weeds in cotton and grains farming systems. January 2020 – June 2022

What is the research?

While historically the Australian cotton industry has had a strong integrated weed management system, the extensive use of herbicide tolerant (HT) cotton varieties and the spread of weeds across the landscape has seen resistant and hard to control weeds emerge.

The need for knowledge of weeds and management tactics will need to remain contemporary, particularly as the industry continues to change, with expansion into new regions and farming systems, particularly rain grown systems and the launch of the third generation of herbicide tolerant traits, enabling over the top of the crop use of dicamba and glufosinate as well as glyphosate. These issues have high significance to the industry, with:

- Glyphosate resistant weeds threatening the sustainability of current farming systems,
- Species shift also threatening the sustainability of current farming systems, with fleabane and feather-top Rhodes grass, for example, very difficult to manage in the current system, especially in summer fallows,
- An ongoing lack of new herbicide solutions to these problems
- Off-target herbicide damage all too common



How will it benefit the grower?

The work has flow-on significance to the community, through:

- Farming systems information, which is applicable to the wider farming community, and IWM information, applicable to the whole farming system, focussing on weed management and herbicide use.

Adoption of IWM and diversified weed control tactics will improve gross margins for Australian cotton production by:

- Reducing future crop protection costs
- Protecting GM herbicide traits
- Increasing the longevity of glyphosate and limiting potential increases in summer fallow weed control costs
- Reducing early season weed competitive pressure on the cotton crop, protecting yield
- Providing growers with the tools and knowledge to make better decisions on controlling hard to kill weeds, leading to more efficient use of resources and economically sound outcomes

Key outcomes

Weed surveys to monitor and record incidence of herbicide resistance, understand the phenology and life cycle of new emerging weeds and monitor weed species shift with the introduction of new herbicide tolerance traits.



Ryegrass surviving after glyphosate spray

Collection of Weed Seed for Herbicide Resistance Testing

Eric and I can collect samples of weed seed for herbicide resistance testing. If you have any fields where you have resistance concerns, we can come out and collect some seed. You will be provided with the results from your farm by Eric. Your data will be collated anonymously with other data collected as part of the cotton industries herbicide resistance monitoring program. The target weeds for the south are the following mature weed seeds: Barnyard grass, Windmill grass, Feathertop Rhodes grass, Annual Ryegrass & Sowthistle. Other species on the radar are

Bladder Ketmia and Red Pigweed. The weed seeds are germinated and then tested for Glyphosate and Group A resistance.

You can collect the seed yourself by getting roughly a cup of mature seed into a paper bag. If collecting Red Pigweed just scrap the top few cm of soil under the plant into bag. Then call me to arrange pick up.

The paper bags should be labelled with:

Date:

Seed:

Collector:

Farm:

Field:

Grower/Agronomist Name, Mobile and Email:

A great reference [here](#) from the IREC website on 23 common cropping weeds and what tactics need to be put together for the long term depletion of the weed seedbank. It is a long game strategy for individual farms with no easy fix.

IREC Rural R and D for Profit Project - Area Wide Management of Weeds



Another weeds project has just started in the region. Area Wide Management of Weeds aims to determine if a collaborative cross sector area-wide approach to weed management will result in a decrease in overall weed abundance and reduce impact to farmers and on a landscape level. The plan is to bring small groups of farmers together to look at tactics for weeds such as fleabane and Ryegrass. Hopefully restrictions on group meetings will ease in the near future and a number of on farm demonstrations of weed control are being planned. More detail to come as this project develops.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program. For more information contact iva@irec.org.au

On farm trials

A short PowerPoint to video here on getting better value from on farm trials. Download on the sidebar and then open slideshow.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/evderog952pxshz/on%20farm%20trials%20Take%202.pptx?dl=0>

There is also a series of podcasts by I-Ag and IREC about on farm trials in The My Digital Farm podcast. These are available on Spotify

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2LgMFBtppiS60BcaLEu165?si=4x8-oGi8QP-zymy3VRIOqA>

and iTunes apple podcast <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/my-digital-farm/id1487414570>.

If you have any ideas for trials for next season please give me a call or send an email.



May question - Where is toolbox?



April Answer – [Bunya pine](#) (on the outskirts of Griffith on the Hillston road). Planted by Molly and Bert Couch in the early 1950s.

Regards Kieran

Disclaimer:

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