



the cotton thread

Border Rivers, St George and Dirranbandi

July 2023

Season Update

The back log of round modules in fields appears to be dispersing across both the Balonne and MacIntyre regions suggesting the gins are better than halfway through the processing of the recent crop. Yield and quality details are remaining good with the recent publications of [Cotton Compass](#) (July 24 and July 31) indicating their feedback has the Balonne with average yields of 13.4-14b/ha, the MacIntyre around 12.8b/ha and that over 80% of the Australian crop has quality parameters of 21/3 colour/leaf or better, length of 1”5/32 or longer and strength of 30 grams/tex or stronger. Quality levels to this standard have only been seen in the 2017/18 crop from the 12 seasons prior to the 2022/23 crop.

Next Season:

Current estimates for the Balonne are around 60% of prior year area which suggests around 25-30,000ha. This is largely reliant upon on-farm storage water as Beardmore Dam which supplies the St George Irrigation area is currently below 16% although has a good history for getting inflows around December/January. There are currently only minor trickles in the Condamine/Balonne river system which will not make planting decisions easy for growers reliant on Beardmore dam. This is not aided by the seasonal outlook (covered later in this newsletter) which are indicating drier than normal conditions.

The MacIntyre region outlook is more positive with Glenlyon Dam at 97.5% and Pindari at 83.7%. Estimates are for around 35,000ha of plantings at this stage plus some dryland although the latter would be getting dubious at this stage.



Figure 1 Soil Cracking in MacIntyre



What's On:

1-3 August:	Cotton Collective , Toowoomba
1-3 August:	WeedSmart Conference , Dubbo
10 August:	Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Moree
11 August:	Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Goondiwindi
12-20 August:	Brisbane EKKA
16 August:	Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, St George
23 August:	Growing Better – Mastering Cotton Forum, St George
24 August:	Growing Better – Mastering cotton Forum, Goondiwindi
25 August:	Mungindi CGA Golf day, Mungindi
25 August:	Macintyre Valley Cotton Awards dinner , Goondiwindi
12 Sept:	Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Goondiwindi
13 Sept:	Bayer Xtendflex sprayer training, Moree

Upcoming XtendFlex Cotton Spray Applicator Training Sessions

As part of Bayer's commitment to whole of system stewardship, the spray applicator training will be a requirement for:



- Technology User Agreement (TUA) signers;
- All on-farm staff responsible for spray applications (including mixing/handling); and
- Any spray contractor that applies XtendFlex Cotton System products over-the-top (OTT) of XtendFlex cotton varieties, once approved by the APVMA.

Each training session covers theory and practical topics. Local courses are listed below. For a full list of course locations and dates, please see the [Bayer website](#). Participants need to register for workshops and can do so from the Bayer website or by clicking [here](#).

Thursday 10 August, 2023	Moree, NSW	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Friday 11 August, 2023	Goondiwindi, QLD	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Wednesday 16 August, 2023	St George, QLD	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Tuesday 12 September, 2023	Goondiwindi, QLD	8:45AM – 2:30PM
Wednesday 13 September, 2023	Moree, NSW	8:45AM – 2:30PM



Seasonal Outlook

The [CottonInfo Moisture manager for July](#) continues to support the recent month’s move towards drier conditions (approaching El Nino) for the coming months August to October (below). The drier outlook is supported by the BoM outlook for the same period which is suggesting a less than 50:50 chance of exceeding median rainfall for the period for the Balonne and MacIntyre regions.

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

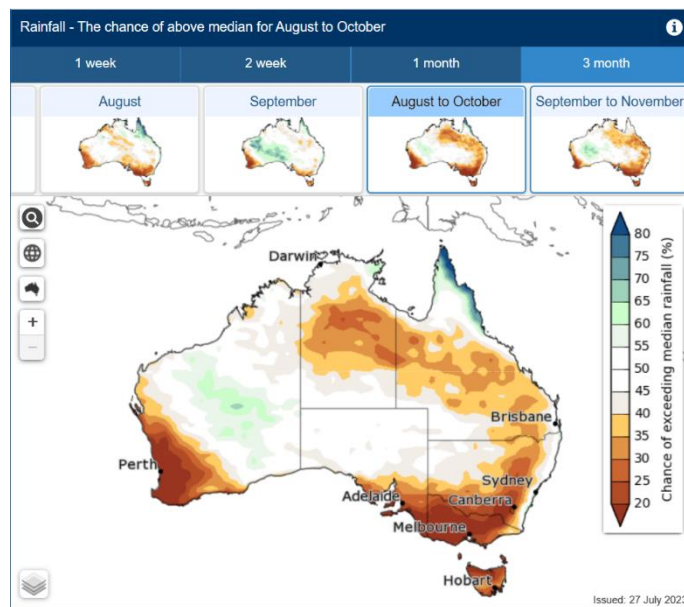


Figure 2: August to October seasonal outlook from CottonInfo Moisture Manager

Fig 3: Bureau of Meteorology Seasonal Outlook for Moisture for July to September. These outlooks can be found at [Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

CSD News

[Cotton Yarns Podcast](#) – In the July podcast, CSD extension agronomist, Angus Marshall talks to CSD’s Growth and Development Manager, James Quinn about the release of Xtendflex cotton varieties. You will need to be a [CSD member](#) to listen to these.



The [Cotton Yarns Podcast](#) from early July caught up with the winners from last crop’s FastStart awards, Matt Richards and Neil Schimke and the importance of ground preparation.

[Water Dashboard](#) – CSD, Goanna Ag and CRDC are partnering to create a real time water accounting system for irrigators viewable via an online dashboard.

CSD Growing Better Cotton Series

The Growing Better Cotton forums have commenced in central Queensland and are coming to Southern Qld regions next before moving into NSW regions.

- 1) Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums – August 2023
- 2) Growing Better Field Days held during the 2023/24 cotton season.

Growing Better Mastering Cotton Forums

These forums will be held across the cotton growing regions of Australia and will provide an opportunity for growers, agronomists, agents, and all members of the industry to gain access to variety trial data, the latest nutrition and disease information, insight into the future of precision ag, plus much more.

CRDC news



- CRDC 5 year Strategic plan for 2023 to 2028 released
- Latest Sustainability update
- Applications sort for new CRDC Executive Director
- Water Dashboard development with CSD and Goanna Ag
- Partners sort for new Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration project
- The Land – CRDC aims to create another billion dollars of value

For more details on these, click [here](#).

Cotton Australia News



- Positive outcomes from leading overseas sustainability conferences
- Leader in carbon farming to address Cotton Collective
- Global leaders to speak at Cotton Collective
- US, Brasil and Australian crop update at Cotton Collective
- Applications open for the Australian Rural leadership Program
- Cotton Collective, 1-3 August, Toowoomba

Cotton Matters

- Cotton Collective Information



- CA wins better transport deal for Qld growers
- Cotton Australian represents growers at the Agrifood Innovation Forum,
- Qld renewable energy landholder toolkit
- Looking for farmers who are “Tough as Nails” – new TV series

For more information on these, click [here](#).

Ground Preparation Video

A number of growers in the St George region have altered their ground preparation process in recent years. The below video looks at the change, how it works and what growers feel it offers them.



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