

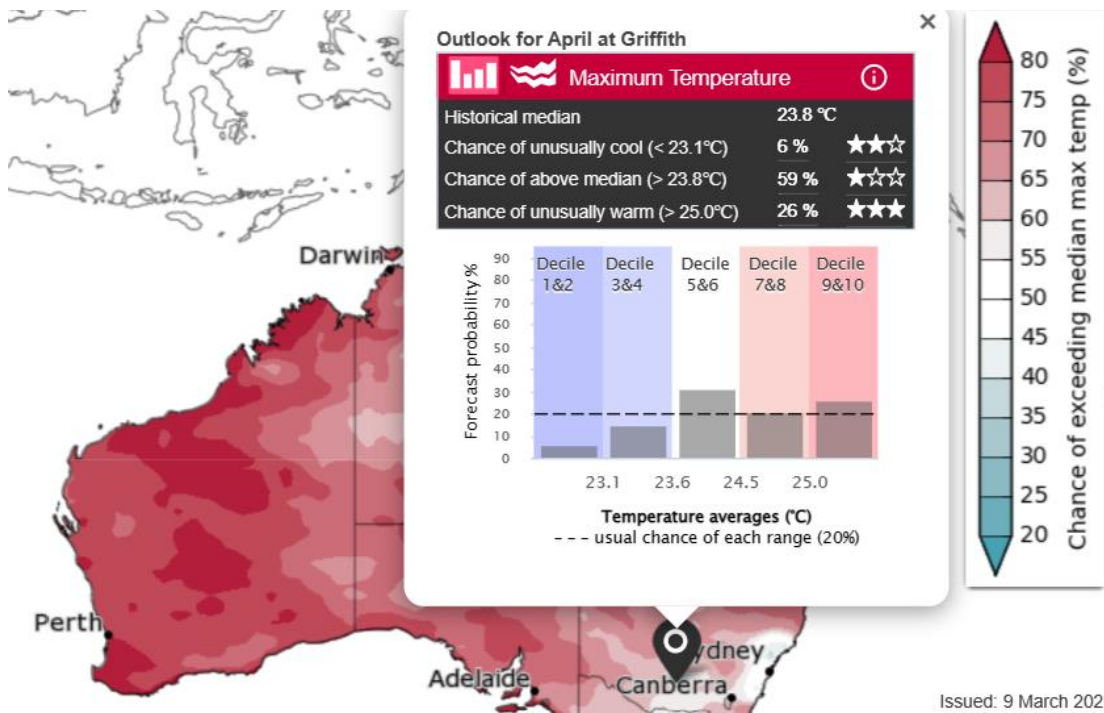


the cotton tale

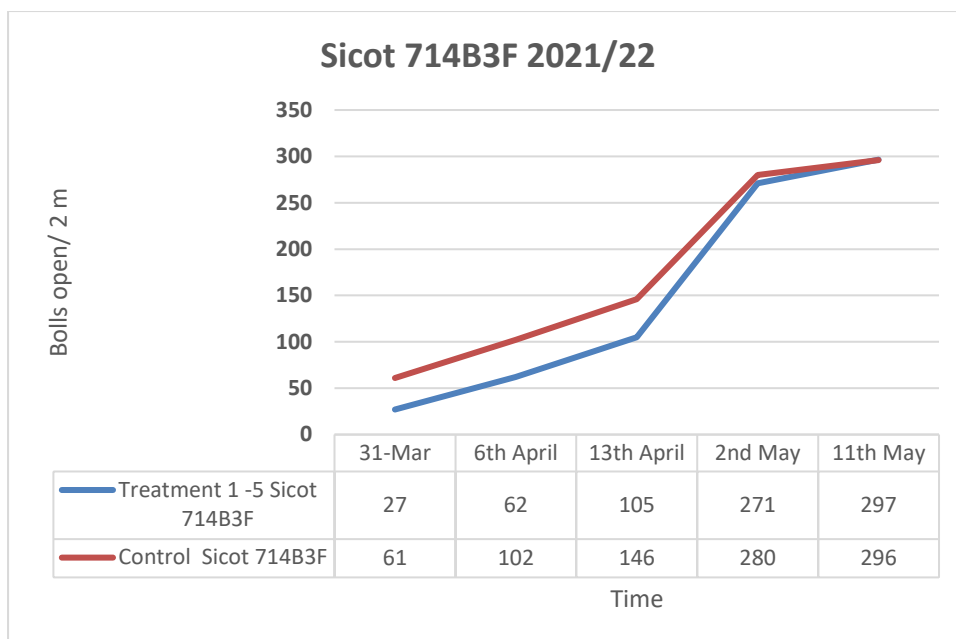
March 2023

Weather forecasts leading into defoliation.

With the crop running a few weeks behind everyone is hoping for a warmer extended Autumn period. Above average day degrees will need to accumulate to get reasonable quality cotton to finish the boll filling period.



Temperatures are also forecast to be above average into May and June with a drier outlook.



The above graph shows the boll opening rate of the CSD variety trial at IREC last season. The treatment was the first five position 1 squares removed just before flowering. The treatment caught up to the control with no difference in yield or quality.

The crop was watered up on the 17th October, First flowers on the 11th January, and got its first defoliation pass on the 14th April and its second on 25th April. Sicot 714B3F topped the trial yielding 13.17 b/ha. The crop was ready for picking in early May.

To get to base micronaire we need at least 700 1532 day degrees during the boll filling period of the start of January to the end of March. With later planting this season and a cool summer, a lot of crops started flowering later around 20th January so we will be relying on decent temperatures into at least mid-April.

Preparing for defoliation

Crops are now getting their last irrigation and over the next few weeks will start to redirect nutrients from the leaves back to the bolls and naturally senesce.

A few tips to keep in mind:

- Maturity assessment <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFvpSH8WIBE>
- Ensure the crop and the field are ready to defoliate. Ensure moisture and N have been run down in crop as it makes the job easier.

- Check your crop regularly. Watch weather forecasts closely, particularly temperature.
- Try to defoliate when it's warm. Use weather to your advantage.
- Don't spray defoliant if wet weather or prolonged cloudy weather is forecast during the three days after application.
- **Minimise drift.** Be aware of sensitive crops, riparian zones and native vegetation • All products have the potential to drift. Always spray under suitable conditions • Comply with mandatory label requirements for buffer zones • Planning ahead and communication between grower, agronomist and applicator is KEY.

RWI disease action group

Last week a group of growers and advisors meet for the first time to form the Richard Williams Initiative disease action group. Apart from the normal integrated disease management activities discussed to get a good stand established, a number of novel options were put forward by the group to be tested in reducing disease levels.

- Invert topsoil – mouldboard plough
- Summer flooding/rice in rotation
- Growing and incorporating biofumigant brassica crops
- Investigate DNA identification of the diseases to have targeted fungicides/combination of fungicides/ biologicals.
- N timing/rate needs to be adjusted in known problem fields. For example, no pre plant Nitrogen.

There was discussion from the group on what are the best rotations and the frequency of cotton in the rotation. The standard cotton/wheat/short fallow rotation is leading to elevated levels of Black root rot in 10 to 12 years and on some farms with longer cotton history increased levels of Verticillium wilt.

A list of non-host crops was discussed as possible crops to bring into the rotation. The list included Sunflower/Maize/Sorghum/Canola/Safflower/Biofumigant crops/Rice. Some of these rotation crops may not only delay disease build up but potentially could reduce disease levels.

The question was raised, “What length of non-hosts is needed to reduce disease to manageable levels”? This will be investigated by the project through DNA soil tests over the next three years.

Further information

[Managing for black root rot | CottonInfo](#)

[DISEASE: Vert update - the latest in verticillium research | CottonInfo](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation \(australiancottonconference.com.au\)](#)

[Guide to Brassica Biofumigant Cover Crops :: September 2020 \(publications.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Cotton Rotation Tool | CottonInfo](#)

Introducing Tom Mannes



For those that are unaware, Tom is the new Cotton Australia Regional Manager for Southern NSW. From Coleambally, Tom looks forward to working with you all so don't hesitate to contact Tom with any issues you may have, including grower concerns, training needs or myBMP accreditation. Tom is here to help and looks forward to representing the growers and the cotton industry in the Southern NSW valleys.

Tom Mannes 0474 224 940 tomm@cotton.org.au

Cotton Australia Options paper to reduce risk of spray drift from Group 4 herbicides.

Cotton Australia is requesting your feedback on the following options aimed at reducing the risk of spray drift from Group 4 herbicides. Cotton Australia recognises that these herbicides play an important role in weed control, and the proposed options are aimed not only at reducing spray drift risk, but also ensuring access to these products is maintained to be used responsibly when required.

Call for Immediate Action: Mandatory Neighbour Notification

Neighbour notification must be provided xx hr prior to application. Notification could be via text, email or the use of a web based system where sprays are logged. Include all neighbours up to xx km radius. Notification could also be provided to state regulators.

Call for Immediate Action: Permit System

A permit must be obtained for the supply and application of Group 4 herbicides.

To obtain a permit the following conditions must be met: Proof of completion of approved spray application training course/Record of supply of product at reseller/Record of application (standardised format provided)/Neighbour notification must be provided xx hr prior to application. Notification via text message/ email/app up to xx km distance/Permit system should be mandated by inclusion on all labels for Group 4 herbicides by the APVMA. Permit system could apply to specific regions/exclusion zones and specific dates (e.g. Oct-March)/Resellers must be able to provide records of supply as requested by regulator.

Call for Immediate Action: Improved system for reporting spray drift incidents.

State regulators should provide the following to enable accurate and timely reporting of spray drift incidents: Clear outline of what to do in the event of a suspected spray drift event including what samples to take, sample storage, all other information to be collected/Standardised reporting template that can be accessed and filled out online, or easily reported via a hotline number/Increased on the ground follow up of reported incidents.

Call for Medium Term Action: Improved record keeping and accountability for pesticide applications.

Work with the APVMA, state regulators, industry bodies and other stakeholders to improve the current level of record keeping and accountability for all pesticide applications. This could include the following: Standardised format for record keeping/On board recording of all pesticide applications/Improved follow up and accountability by state regulators to ensure there is a tangible disincentive to not follow label conditions.

Please provide any feedback on these options by email to

Michael Murray michaelm@cotton.org.au

Cotton Australia needs the support of the industry to advocate for these changes to be introduced. The options listed are not exhaustive, however the options are focussed on what is achievable and likely to have an impact. We also welcome any ideas for additional options that are not included above.



February quiz answer – Archibald fountain, Hyde Park, Sydney.



March quiz – In what northern NSW town is this interesting house colour scheme?

Regards Kieran

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