Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

COTTON *TALES*

Border Rivers

Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

2008/09
No.02
9/10/08

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IRMS now available

The 2008/09 Insect Resistance Management Strategy for cotton can be downloaded from the Cotton CRC website www.cottoncrc.org.au. Key changes this season for the Border region are:

- New insecticide Altacor™ belonging to the chemical group 28 rynaxypyr is available all season with a maximum of 3 sprays in total.
- Extension of abamectin window to Feb 15

Planting considerations

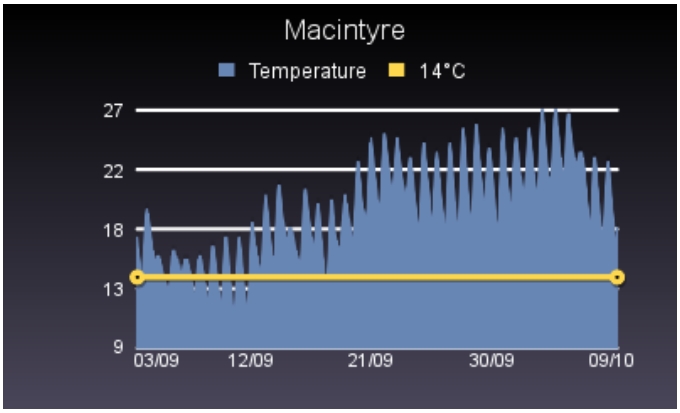
It has been estimated that approximately 15,000ha will be planted in the Border Rivers this season - with plenty of room to move if we get further rainfall throughout October.

Please note – According to the Bollgard II® Resistance Management Strategy "***All Bollgard II® crops are to be planted into moisture or watered up by 15 November…"***

There may be a few things to consider before planting.

Seedling establishment is best if minimum soil temperatures at 10cm are above 14°C for 3 consecutive days which equates to approximately16°C in the seed zone. Sowing below ideal soil temperatures and cool weather soon after planting can increase the incidence of seedling disease, eg Rhizoctonia, Black Root Rot, Fusarium wilt and Pythium.

Delaying sowing until temperatures are warmer minimises the time period when cotton is exposed to conditions favourable for disease development.



Soil temperatures for 2008 – logged hourly. Courtesy of CSD (available at www.csd.net.au)

The potential for delayed sowing must be weighed against the need to maintain acceptable yield. High yielding Bollgard II® cotton varieties may enable yield potential to be maintained with delayed sowing.

Soil temperatures in the Macintyre have been ideal since the third week of September.

Planting rate trials (1 m spaced rows) conducted by both CSIRO and Cotton Seed Distributors over a number of seasons and regions found that there was little yield response to different plant populations from 7–13 plants/m^2 provided good establishment is achieved with an even plant stand. Aim for 8–12 plants/m^2 - the most consistently high yielding population across the seasons. To achieve this, seedling establishment can be estimated at 75% but will be affected by factors such as seedling vigour, disease incidence, soil tilth, soil surface conditions, moisture and weather conditions.

Seedling cotton is susceptible to chilling injury at 3 stages after planting:

- The first few hours
- After 20-30 hours and
- 6-7 days after sowing.

Emerged seedlings suffer cold shock if minimum daily temperature is <11°C. Cold shock can affect the root system through the entire season. Early symptoms include; no elongation in hypocotyl, symptoms of wilting, necrotic leaf growth and no growth.

Nutrition

Ensure phosphorus and zinc levels are adequate at planting as these nutrients are the most critical for seedling emergence and growth.

Soil Insects

False wireworms are the key insect pest at cotton planting/seedling emergence. False wireworms are difficult to sample but are generally found at the top of the intersection of wet and dry soil. Cutworms can also cause damage to young seedlings post emergence and are more likely to be found in fields that have weeds present, especially in lower lying areas where soil remains damp.

False wireworm larvae are needed for a resistance monitoring project. If anyone encounters numbers of false wireworm larvae in fields over the next few weeks, please contact Dave Murray on 46881326.

Free overhead system check ups !!!

Is your Centre pivot/Lateral move working to the best of its ability? System performance affects crop performance and yield. There are key performance measures that should be obtained to ensure your machine is giving you the best value for your investment.

1. Application rate – average application rate and instantaneous application rate,
2. Uniformity
3. Application efficiency.

If interested call Jenelle, 46 690825 ASAP! ***Doesn't have to be on a cotton farm!***