

### Planting considerations

Finally some rain to celebrate around the Darling Downs. Let's hope substantial follow-up occurs in the next few weeks to heighten summer crop prospects.

With the planting window for Bollgard II® now open, there may be a few things to consider before planting.

Seedling establishment is best if minimum soil temperatures in the seed zone are at least 16°C for three days at sunrise.

Delayed sowing minimises the time period when cotton is exposed to conditions favourable for disease development. Cool wet conditions, early in the season, favour the development of black root rot, Fusarium wilt and seedling diseases.

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.

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.

### Regional Soils Symposium

A healthy soils regional symposium will be held in Goondiwindi on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

This forum provides an opportunity for farmers, agronomists and catchment bodies to hear a range of speakers discuss benefits of healthy soils and provide management options for profitable and sustainable cotton and grain farming systems. Everyone is free to attend the forum and there is an option of running a bus from Dalby to Goondiwindi if there is enough demand.

For further information about the forum, a copy of the agenda or to register your interest, please contact Kate Charleston.

### DAFF Drought support funding for irrigators

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin to implement water use efficiency strategies in response to significantly reduced water allocations. For more information and to register your interest, please contact the Murray Darling Basin Information and Referral line on 1800 050 015.

A copy of the irrigation management grants are attached to this newsletter.

### Conservation farmer of the year

Applications for the Southern Qld and Northern NSW conservation farmer of the Year are due soon.

*1<sup>st</sup> prize:* \$2000 cash, courtesy of joint sponsors ANZ and Syngenta

*Runner-up:* 3 year Conservation Farmer Inc membership.

The applicant must own/manage land in the southern QLD and northern NSW area lying within the shire boundaries between Roma & Chinchilla in the North, Barraba, Narrabri & Walgett in the South Lightning Ridge, Dirranbandi, Surat & St George in the West and Glenn Innes, Tenterfield & Toowoomba in the East.

Applications close 23rd November 2007.

Download an application form & conditions of entry at CFI website [www.cfi.org.au](http://www.cfi.org.au) or Syngenta website [www.syngenta.com.au](http://www.syngenta.com.au)

### Australian Cotton Comparative Analysis 2006 Crop report

The comparative analysis is a joint initiative between the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, CRDC and BOYCE Chartered accountants to provide the industry benchmark for the economics of growing cotton in Australia.

The report is now available and can be downloaded from the CRDC website at [www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au)