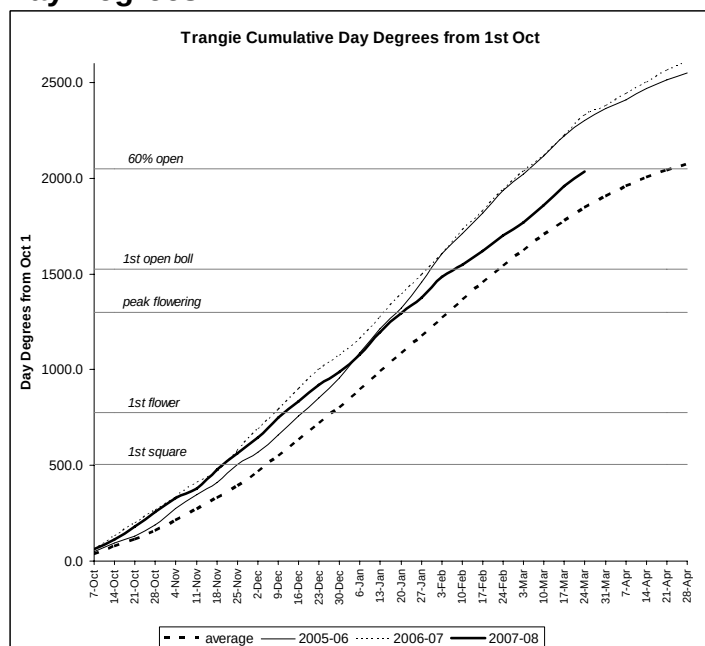


Day Degrees



End of February Results from Bt Resistance Monitoring.

The following table shows the data on egg numbers, hatching, parasitism and species composition for the Macquarie valley. The % *H. armigera* values do not include hosts that are known to be dominated by this species, (i.e., maize and sorghum). The levels of egg parasitism presented in the table are averages and the values in the brackets indicate range among collections.

Trait	17 Jan to 13 Feb
Number of Eggs	461
% hatched	61
% parasitised	36 (8-89)
% <i>H. armigera</i>	20

To date, in all sampled regions the total survival of larvae tested in the program is not substantially greater than 2%, and is not markedly higher than the total survival detected in previous years. **Therefore data from the F_0 screens do not indicate any major changes from previous seasons in survival rates to discriminating doses of Cry1Ac or Cry2Ab.**

Bollgard II survivor work has focussed on St George this season. Unlike last season where 70% of collections comprised *H. punctigera*, the majority of surviving larvae this season consist of *H. armigera*. The number of surviving larvae is higher than the percentage of eggs collected in this region and suggests that *H. armigera* may be differentially surviving on Bollgard II. Testing on larvae survivors and plant material is currently underway. For a full resistance report by Sharon Downes, please contact Sal Ceeney.

Cotton Industry Awards

The Australian Cotton Industry Awards aim to recognise excellence and encourage the industry's future leaders. The 2008 Cotton Industry Awards are now open for nominations in the following categories:

- Monsanto Grower of the Year
- Cotton Industry Young Achiever of the Year
- CSD ACGRA Researcher of the Year
- Cotton Service to Industry
- AgriRisk Innovative Grower of the Year

Entrants for the Young Achiever, Researcher and Service to Industry Awards can be nominated by self, an industry peer, employer or cotton industry organisation. Nominations for the Grower and Innovator of the Year award can **ONLY** be made by local Cotton Grower Associations - maximum of one for each per CGA. Entries close on Friday 11th April and winners will be announced at the ACGRA Cotton Conference on the Gold Coast in August 2008. Entry forms are available for download from the Cotton Australia website at www.cottonaustralia.com.au

The benefits of biodiversity - a few key messages from the Ecosystem Services Review (14/02/2008)

Beneficial insects are present in pastures, dry land lucerne, native shelter belts (tree species included eucalyptus, acacia, casuarina and melaleuca), large river reds along river banks and the travelling stock route adjacent to cotton fields. The beneficial insects are active during the winter months and some used the non-crop vegetation as egg laying sites. Using rare-earth labelling it was demonstrated that beneficial insects moved from the native shelter belt into the cotton fields. This highlights the importance of the non-crop vegetation not only as a source of beneficial insects, but also a breeding site of some beneficial insects.

Key Researcher's in the field of biodiversity.

David Perovic is a PhD student at Charles Sturt University, in Orange. He is investigating the role of non-crop areas in the conservation of natural enemies in cotton landscapes. With particular focus on landscape complexity, arthropod movement throughout the landscape and modelling landscape connectivity.

Ingrid Rencken recently completed her PhD from the University of New England. The focus of her thesis was the importance of non-crop vegetation to beneficial insects. She is currently employed with the DPI&F in Queensland where she works as a development extension officer.