

## VOLUNTEER COTTON – CARRY-OVER FROM PREVIOUS SEASON – SPRING 2009 SURVEY

This year as part of the annual disease survey, information was collected regarding volunteer cotton on farms. This survey was based on visits to 45 farms in NSW and 28 farms in Queensland.

Farms were rated based on number of volunteers per farm for three different areas:

A. Mature cotton plants surviving along roadsides, fence lines, along channels and in tail water return systems or drains.

B. Mature cotton plants surviving from previous season or regrowth from stubs in rotation fields (eg cereal) and fallow fields.

C. Mature cotton plants surviving from previous season or regrowth stubs in current cotton crops.

	A	B	C	TOTAL
	Channels, roads, fences	In fallows/rotations	In current crop	
In NSW	15/45 (33%)	-	15/45 (33%)	15/45 (33%)
In Qld	11/28 (32%)	4/19 (21%)	15/28 (54%)	20/28 (71%)
NSW & Qld	26/73 (36%)		30/73 (41%)	35/73 (48%)

NSW only			
Rare	13/45 (29%)		13/45 (29%)
Common	1/45 (2%)		0/45 (0%)
Numerous	1/45 (2%)		2/45 (4%)
TOTAL	15/45 (33%)		15/45 (33%)

QLD only			
Rare	2/28 (7%)	1/19 (5%)	2/28 (7%)
Common	7/28 (25%)	1/19 (5%)	10/28 (36%)
Numerous	2/28 (7%)	2/19 (10%)	3/28 (11%)
TOTAL	11/28 (32%)	4/19 (21%)	15/28 (54%)
	9/11 Emerald Theodore		11/15 Emerald Theodore

Rare 1-10 volunteers/farm  
Common 11-100 volunteers/farm  
Numerous >100 volunteers/farm

**This survey found that CQ accounted for 9 of the 11 farms in Qld with mature cotton in non-crop areas, and 11 of the 15 farms in Qld with mature volunteer/ratoon cotton in current crop.**

Volunteer and ratoon cotton around a farm can host a large range of pests and diseases including silver leaf whitefly, mealy bugs, aphids, mites, and bunchy top – all noted as problematic in CQ this season. Many will argue that the CQ climate makes control of volunteers challenging. However the total impact of these pests and associated cost for control significantly justifies the effort. Controlling rogue cotton in and out of the field should be part of your farm hygiene strategy.

### Cotton Picking Safety DVDs

There are still some Safe Picking DVDs available. Please contact Susan Maas for a copy.

### COTTON INDUSTRY BIG DAY OUT

Following in the footsteps of last year's successful event at "Keytah" with Sundown Pastoral Company's Andrew Parkes, CRDC and Cotton CRC are again joining forces to present a Big Day Out, with the 2009 winners of the Innovative Cotton Grower of the year, Jamie and Susie Grant at "Kielli", Jimbour Qld. The day will provide those who attend with an up-close look at how the Grant's dryland farming business has evolved over time to drought-proof itself and increase the reliability of annual operating profit.

If any growers are interested in attending please let me know – there is a little bit of funding to help CQ growers attend this event and a bus can be organised.

**Big Day Out – March 10, 2010, hosted by Jamie & Susie Grant, "Kielli", Jimbour.**

### Irrigated Wheat R&D Update

**TODAY - Monday 1st March 7.15pm-8.45pm  
Emerald Mayfair Tavern**

Allan Peake (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems) will be speaking on improving irrigated wheat yields and reducing lodging risk. His experiments in CQ & the rest of northern region last year showed great promise in using different plant populations & delayed application of N to boost yields and reduce lodging risk.

Nick Poole will be speaking on manipulating cereal crop canopies for yield and quality under irrigation & whether there is a role for crop sensors in managing irrigated cereal canopies.