Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

COTTON *TALES*

Darling Downs

Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

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Soil Nutrition Workshop

This workshop will provide you with skills in how to sample soils, interpret soil tests and determine nutrient requirements for your crops. Guest speaker at the workshop is Chris Dowling from Nutrient Management Systems.

Where: Dalby RSL
When: 11 September 2007
Time: 9am – 3pm
RSVP: 7th of September

Morning tea and lunch will be provided and the workshop is FREE.

Please bring along 500 grams of soil and the results from a previous soil test. For further information and to RSVP, please contact Kate Charleston on 4669 0815 or 0428 271 599.

Major Upgrade for Cotton Nutrition Tools

http://tools.cotton.crc.org.au/CottonLOGIC/NutriLOGIC/

The NutriLOGIC program has recently undergone a major revision; it is now more user-friendly, provides information and analytical support for all major nutrients, provides interpretation of soil, petiole and leaf analyses and is relevant for high and low yielding cotton crops.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web is an uncomplicated tool delivered through the Cotton CRC website, designed to aid cotton nutrient management. The information presented is derived from up-to-date cotton nutrition research.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web helps interpret soil and leaf analysis for all major nutrients, and indicates when fertiliser application maybe warranted for individual fields. Petiole nitrate analyses are also interpreted. Growers need only enter the sowing and sampling dates and the chemical analysis from their laboratory report.

Monitoring the nutrient status of each cotton field is essential to optimise yields and use fertilisers effectively. Inappropriate use of fertilisers affects profitability through increased input costs; excessive use of N fertilisers may damage the environment through greenhouse gas emissions and contamination of groundwater.

Specifically, the tool helps to interpret levels of the major nutrients (N, P, K & S) from soil tests and indicates where soil sodicity and salinity may affect production. The N fertiliser calculations have been fined-tuned to allow for cropping history, soil compaction and crop response to N inputs.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web also interprets petiole nitrate nitrogen analyses to indicate crop N status and suggests fertiliser addition if required. To save time NutriLOGIC automatically retrieves Growing Day Degree data from the weather station selected, based on the crop sowing and sampling dates entered.

Importantly, NutriLOGIC-on-the-web can now interpret both major and minor nutrient levels in leaves sampled throughout the season and can indicate whether the nutrient status is adequate for that stage of crop growth.

NutriLOGIC-on-the-web provides general information on soil fertility and cotton nutrition through direct links to NUTRIpak and SOILpak. These links contain further information on cotton crop nutrition requirements, sampling techniques for soil or plant tissue, soil structure and soil chemistry.

Future upgrades will include graphing capabilities and integrate information on nutrient removal, based on cotton yields.

Thanks to Dirk Richards, Sandra Deutscher and Ian Rochester, CSIRO and the Cotton CRC for their contribution in developing this information.

Compost trials

In a previous cotton tales in June, I asked growers if they were interested in using compost in their cotton production systems. The compost, made of cotton trash, is still available and is free of charge.

We plan to trial three rates of compost on two irrigated farms in the coming season. Ideally we would like to continue the trial for 3 years to ascertain the impact of the compost on soil fertility. The compost has been produced according to Australian standards to ensure a disease and weed free status. If you are interested in being part of the compost trial, please let me know. Kate