

Plague Locusts in Cotton

Egg lays from the large swarms of plague locusts during Autumn are beginning to emerge and cause damage in some areas. Whilst cotton is not a preferred food source for locusts, in the past there have been some instances where control in seedling cotton has been required. Some damage has already occurred in pigeon pea refuge crops. There is no threshold for locusts, however they can cause significant damage in a short period of time. Regular monitoring will help detect presence early. In addition to standard monitoring of crop and refuge, this could include noting presence/absence daily when driving around the farm and encouraging farm staff to report any problem areas.

To ensure that a registered product was within the IRMS, a permit for Fipronil (6.25mL/ha) has been issued for cotton and pigeon pea crops to control Australian plague locusts. Product should be applied at the first appearance of locusts at a minimum volume of 20L/ha by aerial application or 50L/ha by ground rig. While a maximum of 2 applications of Fipronil per crop is allowed, if a second application is required, a minimum re-treatment interval of two weeks must be observed. It is important to note the withholding periods on the label are:

Cotton: DO NOT harvest for 4 weeks after application
Pigeon Pea: DO NOT graze or cut for stockfeed.

DO NOT allow harvested seed to be provided for human or animal consumption. (Any harvested seed must be used for sowing purposes only)

Cotton Map

Cotton Australia is urging growers and consultants to get on board and map their cotton fields at www.cottonmap.com.au as a way to protect themselves from unwanted phenoxy herbicide drift this season.

The cottonmap website has proved to be a great way to let neighbours know they have got cotton nearby and will be even more important this season with more than double the hectares planted, and more growers, in more areas.

During the 2008-09 cotton season around 16,000 hectares were affected, costing the industry close to \$10 million.

While overall damage was greatly reduced last season, new growers and those returning to cotton growing in particular need to make sure they are properly prepared.

Cottonmap is simple and easy to use. Protecting your crops with cottonmap does not take long. Simply register at www.cottonmap.com.au, follow the prompts to plot your cotton fields on the map of your farm, save your work and you have helped saved your cotton. It is as easy as that.

If your cotton is not on cottonmap, then it cannot be seen by cottonmap users, which means it is more exposed to possible damage from phenoxy herbicide drift.

Cottonmap will be widely promoted throughout the cotton valleys to farmers potentially using phenoxy herbicides in the coming months, but we need as many cotton fields as possible mapped before the advertising and promotion campaign kicks off in November.

The www.cottonmap.com.au website is just part of Cotton Australia's campaign and is jointly funded by CRDC, GRDC, NuFarm and Cotton Australia.

For Help Using www.cottonmap.com.au

Please contact one of the Cotton Australia Team:

- Queensland Gordon Baker 0408 982 291
- New South Wales James Houlahan 0407 956 586
- New South Wales Greg Kauter 0429 700 711

More information including fact sheets and articles, neighbour notification letters and incident reporting forms are available in the grower toolkit section of the Cotton Australia website at www.cottonaustralia.com.au

P & O AUSTRALIAN COTTON CUP

Saturday 6th November

Warren Racecourse

First race at approximately 11am

Hope to see you at the Randwick of the West!