



syngenta

IRRIGATED COTTON WINNER



FastStart™ 2021-22 COTTON ESTABLISHMENT AWARDS

SNAPSHOT

Grower name	Terry Ryan
Farm and location	"Milla-Lee", Bowenville Qld
Farm size (ha)	600
Enterprise (crops grown)	Cotton and Grains
Cotton production	• 200 ha irrigated • 400 ha dryland
Cotton variety	Sicot 746B3F
Seed treatment	V2C
Soil type	Vertisol Soil
Summer crop area	Cotton, corn and sorghum
Cotton crop area (ha)	160
Rainfall (mm)	600
Planting equipment	John Deere MaxEmerge 2
Planting rate (seeds/m)	12
Avg. planter speed (km/hr)	9
Avg. planting depth (cm)	2



96.7%

ESTABLISHMENT
PERCENTAGE



0.04%

PLANTER UNIFORMITY
INDEX (PUI)

CROP SUMMARY

Planting date	1 November, 2021
Establishment method	Watered up with lateral
Previous crop	Long fallow wheat stubble
Plant stand/m	11.6
In-crop irrigations	Lateral approximately every 4-5 days
Rainfall (mm)	351 currently
Soil applied insecticide	Nil
Nitrogen (kg/ha)	200 kg/ha of urea
Phosphorus (kg/ha)	22 kg/ha
Potassium (kg/ha)	N/A
Zinc (kg/ha)	1 kg/ha

PREPARATION

DESCRIBE YOUR FIELD PREPARATION PRIOR TO PLANTING

Long fallow from previous wheat crop and stubble was still present at time of planting for moisture retention. Planted into stubble no bed prep. As its overhead irrigation there is not as much field prep.

WHAT WEED CONTROL TACTICS DO YOU EMPLOY PRIOR TO OR POST PLANTING?

Herbicides are used to control weeds in the field. Roundup and Gramoxone are used to control weeds. There was also a residual from August where we used Duel.

WHAT IS YOUR FERTILISER APPLICATION STRATEGY? DO YOU SOIL TEST?

The majority of fertiliser are put in up front this year putting on 200kg of urea. We will top dress the field as needed as well. Due to wet weather affecting parts of the crop we did apply fertiliser to individual parts of the field that needed after waterlogging. Before the previous season wheat went into the field we also applied ten tons of manure. Every year we conduct a soil test.

I found the online tools very valuable in assisting us in the establishment phase including the FastStart™ Cotton Soil Temperature Network and the Cotton Field Weather Network.

We have been growing cotton since 1988 and this is the first time we have entered into this competition since it's been running. I feel a bit shocked, but excited and privileged to have won.



HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOUR PLANTER/MACHINERY?

We do a complete check of the planter before putting into the field to big the greatest chance of a good strike. We also maintain it during the off season to ensure we aren't caught out by unexpected problems come planting. The John Deere is an older model but still produces good results. We also use water injecting at planting time.

WHY DID YOU SELECT YOUR CHOSEN VARIETIES FOR YOUR FARMING SYSTEM?

Trial and error. Traditionally we have grown Sicot 748B3F but this year have put in the new variety Sicot 606B3F to see how it fairs in our system.

WHAT SEED TREATMENTS DID YOU USE, AND WHY DID YOU SELECT THESE?

We use the V2C as the seed treatment, but we also use venom and structure to give the seed the best possible chance against fungal diseases and pests.

DO YOU USE A LUBRICANT TO ASSIST WITH SEED FLOW?

For seed lubrication we use talc powder in the planter boxes.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY NEXT YEAR TO FURTHER IMPROVE YOUR ESTABLISHMENT?

This year we had a phenomenal strike so there wouldn't be much to change. The weather was against use with rain moving in which wasn't ideal but overall it was a good plant for us.

TIMING

WHEN DID YOU PLANT, AND HOW DID YOU MAKE THIS DECISION?

We started on the majority of the block on the 1st November 2021. We had plans to start in late October but were delayed by rain.

DID YOU WATER UP, PRE-IRRIGATE OR ESTABLISH ON RAINFALL?

Established on rainfall though we did end up giving a 12mm flush to ensure uniformity in moisture.

IRRIGATION

WHEN DO YOU APPLY YOUR FIRST IRRIGATION, AND HOW DO YOU MAKE THIS DECISION?

On the 6th of January 2022. It wasn't until early January that we did the first irrigation as we could hold off due to good rainfall. The crop was starting to flower around then though, and we didn't want to stress the crop so we started irrigating.



FASTSTART SUPPORT

DID YOU USE ANY OF THE FASTSTART/CSD ONLINE TOOLS?

We used the FastStart™ Soil Temperature Network from the website. There is an Oz Forecast weather station located on the property that CSD installed so we got great information from it.

HOW DID THESE ASSIST YOU DURING THE PLANTING OPERATION?

We wanted to avoid planting into sold soil particularly this year with forecasts suggesting cooler than averages temperatures.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT FASTSTART AND THE FASTSTART AWARD PROGRAM?

From our local CSD representative Chris Barry.

TERRY'S TOP 5 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- 1 Since we use a lateral, we find that stubble is great for moisture.
- 2 Water injecting down the slot at planting
- 3 Keeping an eye on nutrition throughout the early season.
- 4 Manure and composts are great rotation fertilizers.
- 5 Soil moisture probes. We have a Goanna probe to monitor to make sure it doesn't dry down.