

# THINK COTTON



CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES



Bayer, in collaboration  
with Cotton Seed Distributors  
(CSD), through the Acres of  
Opportunity program would  
like to take the opportunity  
to invite you to  
***Think Cotton.***

**There are many reasons to consider cotton, including:**

- Rewarding gross margins
- Simplified weed and pest control, through biotechnology
- Greater flexibility
- Marketing options

**We have created this booklet containing some key information about cotton, relevant to your area – Central Queensland, including:**

- The top performing varieties from the past 5 seasons, including their yield, as measured on grower farms through CSD's variety trial program
- New grower testimonial from around your area in the past 5 years
- Survey results from your region showing how growers are managing key weed species on their farm
- An overview of the 2020/21 season cotton programs available to you when you grow Bollgard® 3/Roundup Ready Flex® cotton, including Cotton Choices™, Roundup Ready PLUS®, Better Farming Grants and the CSD Industry Support Program
- Resource links

## IMPROVED VARIETIES HELPING MAKE COTTON VIABLE AT FORBES

**The improvement in varieties and technology has made cotton a viable option on the property Kywong owned and operated by Robert Scott, south-west of Forbes in the Jemalong irrigation district.**



Robert Scott, of Forbes, NSW, switched to cotton in 2017 due to the improvements in varieties and technology.

Mr Scott said they previously grew corn on their irrigation country but in 2017 switched to their first-ever year of cotton.

“It was the improvements in the technology and the varieties,” he said. “The introduction of varieties such as Sicot 746B3F suit this climate and it was worth considering growing cotton. The gross margins certainly make it worth doing.”

“The weed control is fantastic and being a corn crop last year, there were volunteer corn plants that came up through the year. An application of Roundup® (Ready herbicide) tidied those up and any other problem weeds.”

He said the first year success meant they will grow cotton again if water is available.

“What I like about the crop is the way it maximises or optimises everything you give it: the sunlight, the water, the fertiliser, the agronomy – if you can get the package right then it will perform.”

He said communication with their neighbours about their intention to grow the crop and the need to avoid spray drift was paramount during the growing season.

“I’ve been very open with everybody for twelve months to make sure everybody knew what I was doing. Because cotton is new to the area it’s going to take a while for it to be fully accepted and for everybody to become educated about their spraying. The immediate neighbours have been positive.”

Preparation was a key to growing the crop with time spent in lasering paddocks and setting up infrastructure with channels and drainage.

“If you are going to irrigate you have to be able to deliver the water,” Mr Scott said. “You also have to be able to get it off the paddock and drainage is just as important as delivery.”

The 120 hectares of cotton was planted in the second week of October and irrigated up in the week that followed.

“We have a local agronomist who specialises in cotton and he monitored the crop twice a week, as well as using other technologies, satellite imagery, moisture probes and soil testing. He has the experience and knows what is required so rely on his advice.”

Mr Scott said return per hectare was fundamental in growing an irrigated crop. Water use of nine megalitres per hectare was achieved last season.

“It is a longer season crop than I am used to growing so the last watering took us into March, with harvest by the end of April.”

The enterprise relies on contractors for all specialist machinery which includes hilling up, fertilising, sowing, laser levelling and any other earthworks.

For cotton, harvest pickers came from more northern regions and gins are located at Trangie in the north and Griffith in the south.



## 2019 RESEARCH FROM BAYER HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT (IWM) IN COTTON FIELDS

Research from Bayer revealed 85 per cent of growers surveyed in 2019 suspect they have glyphosate-resistant weeds on their farm, an increase of over 10 per cent since 2016.

The success of glyphosate in Australian agricultural systems has driven this increasing pressure on the chemistry, resulting in increased glyphosate resistance.

Despite increasing levels of resistance, glyphosate continues to perform well in the Roundup Ready Flex® system, with 93 per cent of growers rating the level of weed control achieved as Excellent or Good.

Glyphosate is a critical herbicide for the cotton industry, and for agriculture in general, so protecting the longevity of the product is important. Over the last 20 years, over-reliance on glyphosate has seen a marked decrease in residual chemistry use within cotton systems and has also been a key contributor to the development of glyphosate resistance.

In 2016, Bayer commenced a program to collect data on glyphosate usage and integrated weed management (IWM) in the cotton industry. Insights gathered from 200 farmers and consultants led to

the development of several programs and initiatives to assist cotton growers in implementing their on-farm Integrated Weed Management (IWM) program and to help protect glyphosate into the future.

Bayer now offers free herbicide resistance testing, the Roundup Ready PLUS® program, which rewards cotton growers who use herbicides sustainably, and the Mix It Up™ website, to help growers manage herbicide resistance.

The latest herbicide tolerant trait in the Bayer pipeline is the Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System. It is an advanced weed control tool that will help growers manage difficult-to-control weeds in their cotton crop. The system combines Bayer's leading trait technology with over-the-top tolerance to three unique herbicide modes-of-action. The combination of the best traits and chemistry products will give Australian cotton farmers added choice and flexibility in their overall weed management system. More can be found out about the system at [xtendflex.com.au](http://xtendflex.com.au)

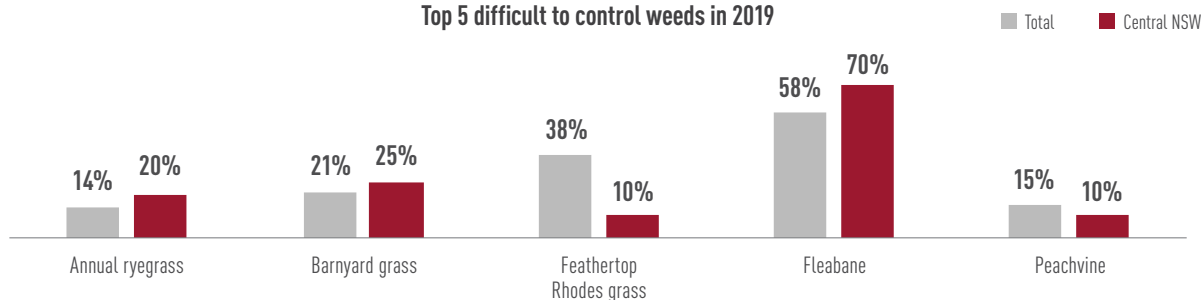
The survey results are shown on the following page, highlighting the top difficult-to-control weeds and grower weed management behavior in your area.



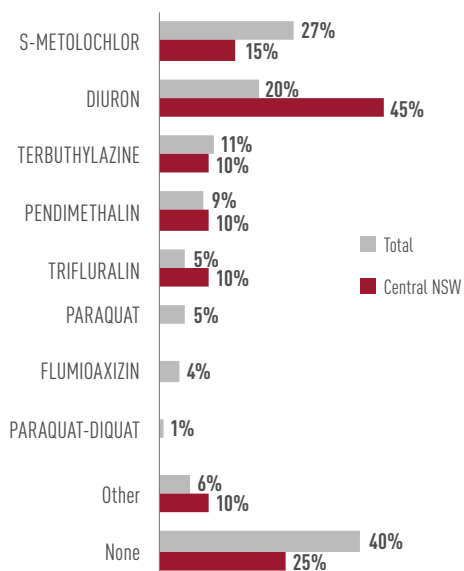
# IWM SURVEY RESULTS - CENTRAL NSW

Macquarie, Lachlan

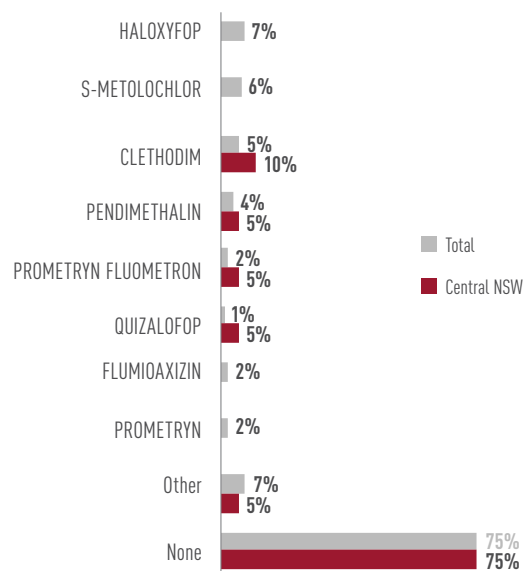
Top 5 difficult to control weeds in 2019



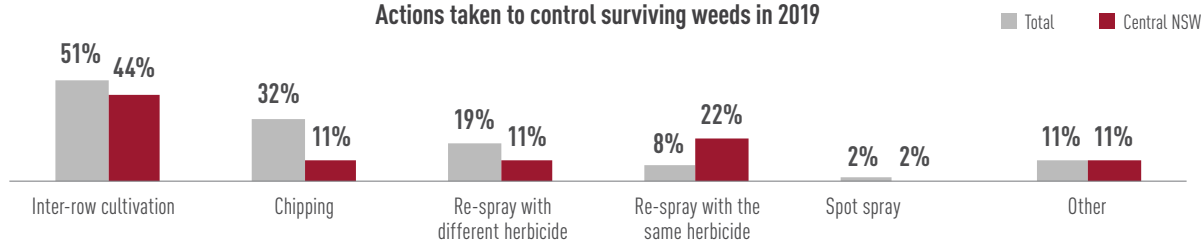
Use of pre-emergent herbicides



Use of post-emergent herbicides



Actions taken to control surviving weeds in 2019



Source: Bayer IWM Survey, 2019 and Bayer Weed control trials, Moree and Narrabri.

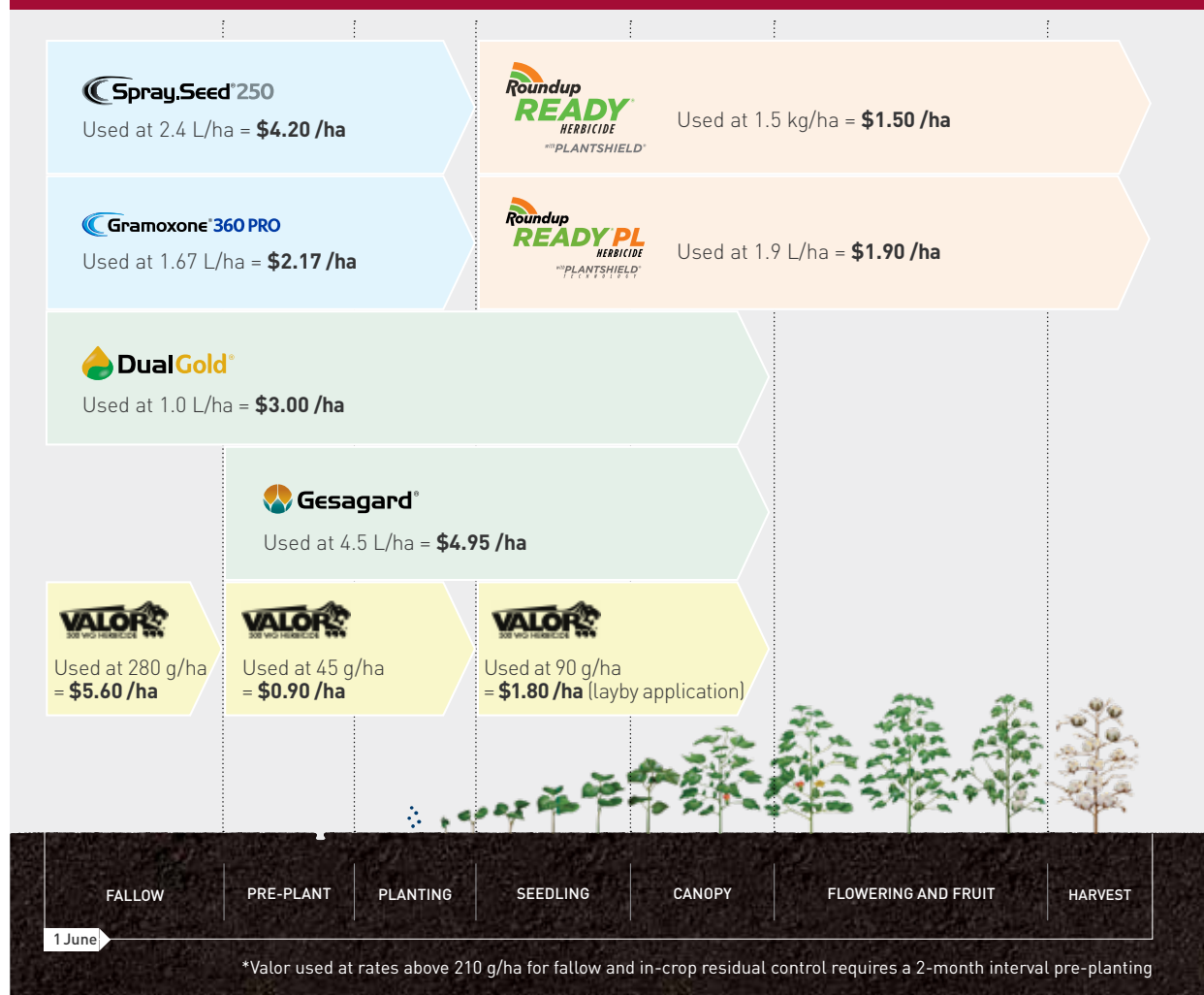
## THE 2020/21 ROUNDUP READY PLUS® PROGRAM

In the 2018/19 season Bayer, in conjunction with Syngenta, launched the Roundup Ready PLUS program to cotton growers. The Roundup Ready PLUS program is designed to protect the longevity of glyphosate and the Roundup Ready Flex trait by rewarding cotton growers who use herbicides sustainably. The program encourages growers to use a range of weed control practices through product recommendations, educational tools and financial rebates.

In 2019/20, Bayer also partnered with Sumitomo, and the program was expanded to include financial rebates for Sumitomo's Valor®.

For the 2020/21 season, cotton growers will be offered rebates for using participating products sprayed on Roundup Ready Flex cotton fields between 1 June 2020 and 30 April 2021.\*

### COTTON PRODUCTS AND APPLICATION WINDOWS



**Find out more at [roundupreadyplus.com.au](http://roundupreadyplus.com.au)**

Growers should consult the Technology User Agreement (TUA) for full terms and conditions.



Check your potential rebate via the calculator available at [roundupreadyplus.com.au](http://roundupreadyplus.com.au)



## COTTON SEED DISTRIBUTORS

Cotton Seed Distributors (CSD) supply cotton planting seed to the Australian cotton industry and are a major investor in cotton breeding, research and development, in partnership with the CSIRO Cotton Breeding Program.

CSD's objective is to deliver elite varieties that are specifically bred and adapted to suit local growing conditions by delivering yield and quality outcomes to keep the Australian cotton industry at the premium end of the global fibre market.

CSD conducts large scale replicated trials focussed on new varieties, technologies and techniques to assess performance across diverse environmental conditions; and provides industry wide extension services focused on cotton production and agronomy via the CSD Extension and Development Agronomy team and CottonInfo joint venture, in partnership with CRDC and Cotton Australia.

### VARIETY COMPARISON

CSD has compared the two main varieties for Macquarie and Lachlan cotton production, using up to five years of variety trials in the region. Basic yield and quality metrics are reported below.

For further information on the characteristics of each variety, please visit [www.csd.net.au/variety-guide](http://www.csd.net.au/variety-guide)

For an annual membership fee of \$20, growers also have access to extensive trial data and analysis and an online variety performance comparison tool, amongst other benefits.

MACQUARIE	IRRIGATED PRODUCTION			SEMI-IRRIGATED PRODUCTION		
	Sicot 748B3F	Sicot 746B3F	Difference	Sicot 748B3F	Sicot 714B3F	Difference
Yield (b/ha)	13.42	13.08	0.34	7.59	7.94	-0.35
Length (decimal)	1.22	1.18	0.04	1.22	1.18	0.04
Micronaire	4.51	4.47	0.04	4.26	4.40	-0.14
Strength (g/tex)	32.3	32.05	0.25	31.92	32.04	-0.12
Turn out (%)	42.38	43.08	-0.70	41.12	41.80	-0.68

Results are from an average of 10 trials over 5 years.

Results are from an average of 5 trials over 5 years.

LACHLAN	IRRIGATED PRODUCTION		
	Sicot 748B3F	Sicot 746B3F	Difference
Yield (b/ha)	12.29	12.63	-0.34
Length (decimal)	1.21	1.19	0.02
Micronaire	3.98	3.97	0.01
Strength (g/tex)	31.86	31.68	0.18
Turn out (%)	40.24	41.78	-1.54

Results are from an average of 18 trials over 5 years.

Visit [www.csd.net.au/membership](http://www.csd.net.au/membership) for details.

**Disclaimer:** General guide only; not comprehensive or specific technical advice. Circumstances vary from farm to farm. To the fullest extent permitted by law, CSD expressly disclaims all liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information, statement or opinion on this website or from any errors or omissions on this website.



# COTTON CHOICES™

## FLEXIBILITY IN EVERY FIELD

Cotton Choices™ gives you the flexibility to choose how to pay your technology fees based on what's likely to give you the best return.

Cotton Choices™ and Roundup Ready Flex® and Bollgard® technology fees.

In 2020/21, the Cotton Choices program will continue to provide growers with consistency and flexibility to choose how they pay for their technology fees. Growers can opt for:

### COTTON CHOICES™ 1 - PRICE DISCOUNT

You can choose an upfront price discount on technology fees for your selected fields or refuge crops.

The applicable payment date for Cotton Choices™ 1: Price Discount and technology fees after discount are shown below.

Product	Price/Hectare (ex. GST)	Payment Date
Bollgard® 3 / Roundup Ready Flex®	<b>\$390</b>	
Bollgard II® / Roundup Ready Flex	<b>\$370</b>	
Bollgard II	<b>\$315</b>	
Roundup Ready Flex	<b>\$75</b>	


**Notes:** Price excludes GST. Discount does not apply to Roundup Ready Flex unsprayed cotton refuges over 10% of the Bollgard II area or 5% of the Bollgard 3 area (as per trait's RMP requirements), or to sprayed Roundup Ready Flex, as nominated in the planting audit. Late Crop Removal is not available under this offer.





## COTTON CHOICES™ 2 - LATE CROP REMOVAL AND EXTENDED TERMS


By selecting Late Crop Removal (LCR) and Extended Terms, your technology fee is waived if your crop is removed due to hail, drought, or other adverse conditions or events. Extended payment terms are until the end of July.

Product	Price/Hectare (ex. GST)	Payment Date
Bollgard 3 / Roundup Ready Flex	\$420	
Bollgard II / Roundup Ready Flex	\$401	
Bollgard II	\$332	
Roundup Ready Flex	\$79	

**Notes:** Price excludes GST. If for any reason your crop fails (hail, flood, sand storm, drought, herbicide drift etc) and is removed on or before **16 April 2021**, Bayer will waive 100% of the technology fee on the affected hectares. This offer does not apply to Roundup Ready Flex unsprayed cotton refuges over 10% of the Bollgard II planting area or 5% of the Bollgard 3 area (as per the trait's RMP requirements), or to sprayed Roundup Ready Flex, as nominated in the planting audit.

## COTTON CHOICES™ 3 - END POINT ROYALTY

You can choose to pay an End Point Royalty (EPR) per bale after ginning to assist in managing production and cashflow risk.

Product	Price/Bale† (ex. GST)	Payment Date
Bollgard 3 / Roundup Ready Flex	\$52.50	
Bollgard II / Roundup Ready Flex		
Bollgard II	\$50	
Roundup Ready Flex		

**Notes:** Price excludes GST. ^Payment date is 30 days after the end of the month of the invoice date (ie. the date on the invoice given to your TSP). † Standard 227 kg bale of cotton lint. This offer does not apply to Roundup Ready Flex unsprayed cotton refuges over 10% of the Bollgard II planting area or 5% of the Bollgard 3 area (as per the trait's RMP requirements), or to sprayed Roundup Ready Flex, as nominated in the planting audit. Bales determined via reconciliation of ginning reports received by Bayer.

In 2020/21, Bollgard 3/Roundup Ready Flex pricing under the Cotton Choices program will remain unchanged from the previous season. Please consult [cottonchoices.com.au](http://cottonchoices.com.au) for further details on the Cotton Choices program and technology pricing.



# CONSIDERING DRYLAND COTTON THIS SEASON?

Reduce your risk with the CSD Industry Support Program, in partnership with Syngenta.

Register for the free program, and if you don't harvest your crop, we'll provide a dollar for dollar credit toward next season's cotton seed.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

The program is available in selected varieties in designated areas - see map.

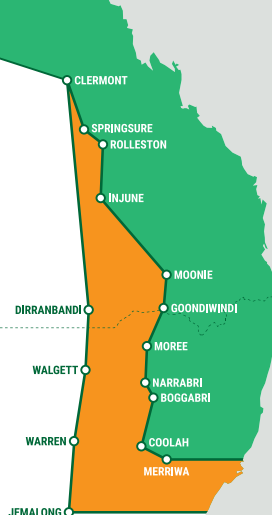
- Sicut 714B3F, Sicut 748B3F and your choice of Roundup Ready Flex® refuge seed.
- Sicut 746B3F, Sicut 714B3F, Sicut 748B3F and your choice of Roundup Ready Flex® refuge seed.



**INDUSTRY  
SUPPORT  
PROGRAM**



syngenta



- "No pick" means the crop is destroyed (for any reason other than hail) after inspection by a CSD Extension and Development Agronomist.
- Credit is of the same value, purchased in 2020 for next year's seed.
- ISP claims must be lodged by Friday, 19 March 2021.
- All prices must be at Regular Order price.
- Seed needs to be purchased with a Syngenta branded seed insecticide treatment.
- For more terms and conditions visit [www.csd.net.au/isp](http://www.csd.net.au/isp).

Terms and conditions apply, speak to your CSD Agent and visit [www.csd.net.au/isp](http://www.csd.net.au/isp) for further details and eligibility.

## BETTER FARMING GRANTS FROM BAYER

In a commitment to working with farmers to continue to reduce agriculture's impact on the environment, Bayer will continue to support the Better Farming Grants program, aimed at increasing efficiency and sustainability on cotton farms. Two grants are available under the program - the Bayer *myBMP* certification and *myBMP* bale grants.



### ***myBMP* certification grants from Bayer**

Bayer will provide a \$2,000 (ex. GST) grant to growers who conduct an on-farm audit and achieve *myBMP* certification prior to 31 December, as confirmed by Cotton Australia.



### ***myBMP* bale grants from Bayer**

Bayer will pay eligible cotton growers a grant of \$1 per bale (227 kg) for cotton lint that is produced from *myBMP* certified farms and where the grower has opted in to the *myBMP* Bale grant program via Cotton Australia.

**Find out more about the program at [crop.bayer.com.au](https://crop.bayer.com.au)**

## RESOURCES

**There are several online resources that you may find useful:**

- **Acres of Opportunity** – A consolidated source of up-to-date information and advice on cotton farming in Australia at [acresofopportunity.com.au](https://acresofopportunity.com.au)
- **Cotton Choices™** – Match your Cotton Choices™ with your yield by field. Keep up to date with Choice options, important dates and changes at [cottonchoices.com.au](https://cottonchoices.com.au)
- **Bollgard 3** – An easier way to grow cotton. For information on the Bollgard 3 Resistance Management Plan (RMP) visit [bollgard3.com.au](https://bollgard3.com.au)
- **CottonInfo** – Regional development officers and technical specialists can provide you with the latest research and information on a range of rain-grown cotton topics, also visit [cottoninfo.com.au](https://cottoninfo.com.au)
- **The 2018 Australian Cotton Production Manual** – A one-stop-shop for growers, outlining important on-farm cotton production considerations. Download from [cottoninfo.com.au](https://cottoninfo.com.au)
- **Cotton Australia** is the key representative body for the Australian cotton growing industry. [cottonaustralia.com.au](https://cottonaustralia.com.au)
- **myBMP** – a voluntary farm and environmental management system which provides self-assessment mechanisms, practical tools and auditing processes to ensure that Australian cotton is produced according to best practice. Find out more at [mybmp.com.au](https://mybmp.com.au)

# THINK COTTON



To be able to continue receiving this information, please complete the form via scanning the QR code, going to [www.bit.ly/bayer\\_update\\_form](http://www.bit.ly/bayer_update_form) or by completing the enclosed form, letting us know what you're interested in.

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