



NORTHERN NEWSLETTER

PRE-SEASON

Considering growing cotton this season?

The **First Golden Rule** of growing cotton is to plan and prepare in advance.

Organise your contractors, inputs and suppliers early

You will need to source farm inputs such as seed, fertiliser, herbicides, insecticides, growth regulators and defoliants. You are required to sign a CSD Grower Agreement to purchase seed and a Bayer Technology User Agreement (TUA) which is a regulatory requirement and allows you to grow GM cotton. There are several CSD Agents and Bayer Technology Service Providers in Northern Australia.

Most cotton growers engage outside assistance to help manage their crop. This can include a crop consultant (agronomist) to assist with decision making throughout the season, and contractors for time sensitive farm operations (e.g. planting, picking and spraying).

Contact **Crop Consultants Australia** to find a consultant in your area.

Similarly, it is important to have suitable contractors engaged and ready to work when you need them. It is common for planting, spraying and picking of crops to be handled by contractors. In Northern Australia particularly, it is important to have suitable transport options secured early in the season to transport cotton rounds to the gin.

Consider your ginning and marketing options

It's also important to investigate cotton ginning and marketing, prior to planting. Remember that you will produce two commodities with each cotton crop - the lint and the seed - both of which can provide lucrative returns if marketed wisely.

For a list of Australian merchants, please visit www.austcottonshippers.com.au.

The paperwork - CSD Planting Seed Agreement (Grower Agreement) and Bayer Technology User Agreement (TUA)

Growers must have a Grower Agreement in place before seed can be dispatched from your local agent or reseller. The Grower Agreement is an annual agreement that sets out the rights and responsibilities of CSD, the CSD agent and the grower themselves, with respect to the supply and stewardship of cotton planting seed.

For more details download the [2019 CSD Grower Information Guide](#).

Growers must also sign a TUA. A TUA is a legal agreement between Monsanto Australia Pty Ltd (Note: Bayer is trading as Monsanto Australia Pty Ltd) and a grower that gives the grower a limited license to use, and describes stewardship guidelines and obligations for, Monsanto traits. A TUA can be completed with your Technology Service Provider (TSP).

The Bollgard 3 Resistance Management Plan (RMP)

Resistance poses a serious threat to transgenic cotton, as the toxin is expressed all season long. This persistent exposure offers the potential for even stronger selection for resistance than would come from sprays.

The cotton industry has taken a proactive approach to resistance to ensure the longevity of the technology. As a regulatory requirement under the APVMA registration of Bollgard 3, all growers are required to implement a Resistance Management Plan (RMP). Taking into account the unique environment in Northern Australia, Bayer, in conjunction with the cotton industry have developed a Bollgard 3 Northern Australia RMP. The RMP outlines key management strategies that growers must put in place, in order to grow the Bollgard 3 technology. Further detail on implementing the RMP is provided in the accreditation program.

For more details: [Bollgard 3 Northern Australia Resistance Management Plan](#).

Key dates for Bollgard 3 and Roundup Ready Flex in Northern Australia

Technology Cotton Seed	Planting Dates	Planting Audit Due Dates	Mid-Season Survey Due Dates	End-of-Season Survey Due Dates
Bollgard 3 / Roundup Ready Flex.	6 week planting window between December 1 and May 30.	Due 2 weeks after the 6 week planting window has closed.	Due 4 weeks after the planting audit due date.	Due 8 weeks after the mid-season audit (dependent on picking time).

- All audits are conducted by your nominated Technology Service Provider (TSP) who will record all the areas planted with Technology Cotton Seed (together with varieties, field names and associated refuges on all farm units).
- Bayer will advise growers of audit dates once the planting window has been finalised for the region.
- Each valley has a unique planting window.

Accreditation

Prior to planting any of Bayer's technologies, including Bollgard 3, growers must complete an accreditation course. The accreditation course provides information on the process required to grow the technology and outlines the key strategies within the RMP. Growers only need to complete an accreditation once for each product, prior to planting.

For further information on Bollgard 3 or Roundup Ready Flex accreditation sessions, please contact: Mark Dawson, Australia Row Crop Sales Lead on mark.dawson@bayer.com or 0428 106 090.

Preparing to plant your crop

IS YOUR CURRENT MACHINERY SUITABLE TO GROW COTTON?

If not, you will need to engage the services of a contractor to assist.

Some field operations - particularly planting - are time sensitive, so there is tangible value in having machinery serviced early. Having machinery ready to go when planting conditions are right and having the capacity to cover the ground quickly will minimise the chance of missing the opportunity when it arises.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Ground cover, stubble retention and erosion are all important factors to consider. Planting into groundcover or standing stubble can aid in establishment, help to retain moisture, create a good environment for beneficial insects and can reduce the possibility of sandblasting. In some areas, standing stubble also helps to protect the seed bed from direct sunlight and effectively regulate the soil temperature while minimising erosion during wet season rainfall.

8 Golden Rules of Dryland Cotton

Rule 4: Plant into standing stubble and plan refuges.

The ability to use Roundup Ready® Herbicides* over the top of the cotton crop will help to control grasses and reduce competition, post establishment.

The use of equipment such as a strip till machine may also be very beneficial when planting cotton into existing groundcover. These machines only cultivate a small section of soil where the seed will be placed. A strip till machine may have multiple benefits, such as allowing moisture penetration immediately at, and adjacent to, the plant line, retaining the majority of groundcover and creating a good seedbed by removing plant matter from the seed trench. This allows good seed to soil contact and minimises soil disturbance which should have a positive effect on reducing potential erosion.

Variety selection

8 Golden Rules of Dryland Cotton

Rule 6: Choose an appropriate variety, Cotton Choices™ and row configuration.

10 Point Plan for Irrigated Cotton

Rule 3: Select the right variety and seed treatment.

Selecting a cotton variety that has the right regional and production fit is a very important decision. CSD has a range of varieties available, which should be selected based on yield, quality and disease resistance characteristics. Other traits such as determinacy, leaf shape and season length may also be important.

Check out CSD's [variety guide](#) and consult the [Australian Cotton Production Manual](#) - Chapter 7: Selecting the seed, page 37.



Neighbourhood relationships

It's your responsibility to ensure chemical drift is minimised on your farm and does not occur outside your property boundaries.

Cotton is highly susceptible to phenoxy herbicides such as 2,4-D. The core best management practice for safe and responsible pesticide use is to develop a pesticide application management plan (PAMP). Letting your neighbours, local resellers, spray contractors and aerial operators know that you have cotton can help minimise risk, particularly in new or isolated areas.

Check out [this handy flyer](#) for preventing off-target herbicide application.

myBMP

The Australian cotton industry is dedicated to sustainable production and practices. myBMP is a program which ensures that best management practices are put in place to cover safety, environment, efficiency, management and sustainability on farm, among a number of other important factors.

The myBMP program is currently being adapted to suit cotton production in Northern Australia.

For further information, visit: www.mybmp.com.au.

INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

CSD Industry Support Program

CSD offers dryland cotton growers the opportunity to reduce their production risk via a dollar for dollar credit towards the following season's seed, if the dryland cotton crop is unable to be picked (excluding crops which are destroyed through hail damage). Terms and conditions apply.

For further information, visit: www.csd.net.au/isp.

Please be aware that registrations for Northern Australian growers will be subject to the conditions on the Northern RMP. Registrations for the CSD Industry Support Program must be received by CSD via email within the six-week Northern Australia planting window.

Roundup Ready PLUS® Program

The Roundup Ready PLUS program is designed to reward cotton growers who use herbicides sustainably and help slow or prevent development of glyphosate resistance in key weed species. The program encourages growers to use a range of weed control practices through product recommendations, education and stewardship campaign and financial rebates. Terms and conditions apply.

For further information, visit:
www.roundupreadyplus.com.au.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cotton Seed Distributors

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RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Resources

- [Acres of Opportunity Irrigated Cotton Guide](#)
- [Acres of Opportunity Dryland Cotton Guide](#)
- [Tropical Cotton Production: Considerations for Northern Cotton Growers](#)
- [Growing Cotton in Northern Australia](#)
- [2019 CSD Grower Information Guide](#)
- [Australian Cotton Production Manual](#)
- [CSD Variety Guide](#)
- [CSD Variety Trial data](#)
- [FastStart™ cotton website](#)
- [CottonInfo YouTube series - planting and establishment, hosted by John Marshall \(formerly CSD\)](#)
- [CSD Statement of Seed Analysis](#)
- [CSD seeds per kilogram](#)
- [CSD disease ranks](#)
- [Roundup Ready PLUS®](#)
- [Bollgard® 3 Resistance Management Plan for Northern Australia](#)

Useful Tools

- [Variety Performance Comparison](#)
- [FastStart™ Soil Temperature Network](#)
- [Cotton Planting Rate Calculator](#)
- [Cotton Field Weather Network](#)
- [Have you got the green light for planting?](#)
- [Bollgard® 3 Refuge calculator](#)

General guide only, not comprehensive or specific technical advice. Circumstances may vary from farm to farm. To the fullest extent permitted by law, CSD and Bayer expressly disclaims all liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information, statement or opinion in this document or from any errors or omissions in this document.

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Roundup Ready Flex, Roundup Ready PLUS, Bollgard and Bollgard II are registered trademarks of the Bayer Group. All other marks are the property of their respective owners. Insect control technology incorporated into these seeds is commercialised under a license from Syngenta Crop Protection AG. Monsanto Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 86 006 725 560): Level 1, 8 Redfern Road, Hawthorn East Vic 3123. Phone: 1800 804 479. Crop.bayer.com.au

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