

Cotton Choices from Monsanto in 09/10

This year the marketing options from Monsanto have changed regarding cotton. This year there are three options for the purchase of stacked technology in the form of Bollgard II, combined with either Roundup Flex or Roundup Ready technology. All growers will have until planting audit to determine which option they wish to take when stacked varieties represent over 80% of their cotton plant, apart from the EPR for Dry land or semi irrigated scenarios, which require expressions of interest now.

As far as single stacked technologies such as Roundup Ready conventional, Roundup Flex conventional and straight Bollgard II varieties payment terms are still seen to February.

Option 1 – Price discount

This involves a percentage off the purchase for a given area. For example if you grow 200 hectares you will get a 2% discount on the price of the technology. This is capped at a 9% discount for areas of 2,000 hectares or greater. So the more cotton you grow the greater the discount. This is only available to growers with greater than 80% stacked technology, i.e BRF or BRR varieties. Payments still due in April.

Option 2 – The late crop removal offer, giving growers the flexibility to remove any unviable crop by the 20th April for what ever reason, and receive 100% refund on the cost of the technology. This offer includes the April payment terms and is only available on stacked varieties and roundup ready flex refuge areas eligible for removal.

Option 3 – EPR – an option for dryland cotton or semi irrigated crops. There is a requirement to register your interest if you want to know more about this option. You can either register with your TSP or download the EPR form off the Monsanto website and fax it directly to them.

Essentially the planting fee is based on a green hectare basis and costing is on a sliding scale of final yield, with the initial payment due in February. This will require ginning documentation to be supplied to determine final yields.

For example, if your dry land cotton yields 3.6 bales per hectare then the technology fee will be \$49/ha on double skip or \$73.50 for single skip or \$98/ha for solid plant. For every bale over limit of 3.6 bales per hectare, you will pay an extra \$7.50/ bale for double skip or \$11.25 per bale for single skip or \$15 per bale for solid plant per bale.

Therefore if you grow 5.2 bales per hectare the cost of the stacked technology of Bollgard II flex cotton based on the EPR guidelines will be the equivalent to a per hectare irrigated cost for the technology. If you have any further questions please phone John Nott at Pursehouse Rural, Gunnedah.

Choice 3 - End Point Royalty

| BGII/RRF fees | Double Skip | Single Skip | Solid |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Planting fee | \$ 49.00 | \$ 73.50 | \$ 98.00 |
| EPR 0-3.6 b/ha | \$ 37.50 | \$ 56.25 | \$ 75.00 |
| EPR >3.6 b/ha | \$ 7.50 | \$ 11.25 | \$ 15.00 |

Planting fee cost per broad hectare based on December planting audit area and due February 2010. EPR cost per bale based on ginned lint yield and due June 2010. Growers must register with Monsanto prior to planting to participate in the end point royalty program. This offer is only available for BGII/RRF or BGII/RRC varieties as well as any associated RRF unsprayed refuge. Planting fee for BGII/RRC is \$45.5/ha (Double skip) and \$18.75 (Double skip) for RRF unsprayed. EPR prices are the same for BGII/RRF, BGII/RRC and RRF unsprayed refuge yield.

| BGII/RRF Yield Bales/ha | Planting Configuration - Total fee/ha (broad) | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|-----------|
| | Double Skip | Single Skip | Solid |
| 1.0 | \$ 86.50 | \$ 129.75 | \$ 173.00 |
| 1.3 | \$ 97.75 | \$ 146.63 | \$ 195.50 |
| 1.6 | \$ 109.00 | \$ 163.50 | \$ 218.00 |
| 1.9 | \$ 120.25 | \$ 180.38 | \$ 240.50 |
| 2.2 | \$ 131.50 | \$ 197.25 | \$ 263.00 |
| 2.5 | \$ 142.75 | \$ 214.13 | \$ 285.50 |
| 2.8 | \$ 154.00 | \$ 231.00 | \$ 308.00 |
| 3.1 | \$ 165.25 | \$ 247.88 | \$ 330.50 |
| 3.4 | \$ 176.50 | \$ 264.75 | \$ 353.00 |
| 3.7 | \$ 184.75 | \$ 277.13 | \$ 369.50 |
| 4.0 | \$ 187.00 | \$ 280.50 | \$ 374.00 |
| 4.3 | \$ 189.25 | \$ 283.88 | \$ 378.50 |
| 4.6 | \$ 191.50 | \$ 287.25 | \$ 383.00 |
| 4.9 | \$ 193.75 | \$ 290.63 | \$ 387.50 |
| 5.2 | \$ 196.00 | \$ 294.00 | \$ 392.00 |
| 5.5 | \$ 198.25 | \$ 297.38 | \$ 396.50 |
| 5.8 | \$ 200.50 | \$ 300.75 | \$ 401.00 |
| 6.1 | \$ 202.75 | \$ 304.13 | \$ 405.50 |
| 6.4 | \$ 205.00 | \$ 307.50 | \$ 410.00 |
| 6.7 | \$ 207.25 | \$ 310.88 | \$ 414.50 |
| 7.0 | \$ 209.50 | \$ 314.25 | \$ 419.00 |

New Research and Development Program for PHR

Melissa Quinn recently started at Pursehouse rural in Quirindi as a newly created position of Research and Development Agronomist. Melissa grew up on a dryland cropping property in the southern Riverina, near the border town of Moama. Melissa attended the University of Melbourne's Dookie College, near Shepparton in Victoria gaining a Bachelor of Agriculture (Hons).

After graduating Melissa worked for Peracto, a private R&D company, previously known as Serve-Ag research and was located at Shepparton. In her role as a research officer she conducted product registration trial work in agriculture and horticulture for most of the major chemical companies.

Melissa moved to Gunnedah at the beginning of 2009 and started with Pursehouse this June. Melissa's role as R & D Agronomist will allow the establishment of more extensive field trials relevant to each region, including variety comparisons and new product demonstrations. Pursehouse Rural are enthusiastic in this new venture in the development of its research program. If anyone has a particular area of interest please feel free to contact Melissa on 0428 668 341 or your local Pursehouse Rural agronomist.



Managing Herbicide Resistance in Wild Oats

Attention Techspray Customers

Due to the increasing cost of fuel and equipment, Techspray pricing will be increasing 50 cents per hectare as of 1 July 2009

Herbicide resistance is becoming a more common occurrence throughout northern NSW. Thus far, there have been 10 confirmed resistant weeds to various herbicides (wild oats, paradoxa grass, sowthistle, turnip, charlock, barnyard grass, annual ryegrass). This is likely to increase in the coming years, particularly due to our heavy reliance on glyphosate.

An increase in resistant weeds has the potential to increase farmer's costs through the rotation of herbicides and this being a more expensive practice. Alternatively, less profitable crops may have to be grown. It is vital to manage resistance early to minimise additional costs associated with resistance. Resistance is able to develop in a paddock for a number of reasons. The first method is through mutations within the weed. The second is through the importing of resistant weed seed through bought seed, machinery, feed etc. Lastly, it can occur naturally through wind and water movement

Resistant plants in a paddock will only become a problem if the grower is reliant on one particular herbicide group (eg. Group A with wild oats). If the grower continues using the same herbicide group, it will only be a matter of time before the resistant gene increases and then dominates throughout the paddock.

Resistance is able to develop within 4-8 years for Group A and Group B herbicides, and 15 years for Group L and M herbicides.

There are a number of strategies to help minimise the level of resistance. They are to: prevent seed set, rotate herbicides, keeping weed numbers low, crop rotation, tillage, and avoidance of bringing in resistance seed in through machinery feed etc.

Wild oats are one of the most common weeds in winter crops and winter fallows in north west New South Wales. It is a highly competitive weed that is able to cause significant yield loss.

Wild oats will generally emerge late autumn/early winter, depending on soil moisture. There are then sporadic germinations throughout winter. A wild oat plant is able to produce 50-225 seeds depending on weed/crop density. The seed that sits on the soil surface has been found to only persist for short periods. Local research has shown that the seed bank is lost after 1 year, and 98% after 2 years. Therefore, it becomes essential to prevent seed set from year to year.

Many wild oat populations have been found to develop resistance to Group A herbicides. Where crop rotation can be used, this resistance is minimised. In areas where there is predominantly winter cropping, the reliance on Group A's is greater. Therefore resistance is a huge concern. Below are some strategies to prevent Group A resistance in wild oats:

1. Include summer crops in the rotation and control wild oats in fallow with knock-down herbicides.
2. Grow crops such as barley that are more competitive.
3. Rotate herbicides – use Avadex (Group E) pre-emergent in wheat, Group B products such as Hussar or Group K products such as Mataven.

For further information on resistance, or to organise for resistance testing, please contact your Pursehouse Rural agronomist.

Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries



Slugs in Canola

A combination of the moist start to the winter season and high stubble loading in many paddocks with direct drilling into last seasons cereal stubble, has led to isolated incidences of slug damage in emerging canola crops. This damage can be difficult to detect as many seedlings are eaten off at ground level. More obvious signs of damage are irregular pieces chewed from leaves and shredded leaf edges.

Slugs, which are hermaphrodites, meaning both members of a mating couple can lay eggs, usually emerge in paddocks with heavy soil types. Mating usually occurs with favorable moist conditions after summer with eggs being laid into moist soil.

Slugs can be difficult to find in paddocks and their numbers often underestimated. This is generally the case in paddocks with large amounts of stubble residue left behind from a previous cereal crop. Fresh trails of white and clear slime visible in the morning, indicate their presence. Slugs usually feed at night, and can be found on canola plants during the evening or at dawn.

Once established, a slug population is great enough to cause significant damage and control measures should be put into place. Baiting appears to give the most effective control of the pest, however results can be variable.

It should be noted that one single strategy may not be effective in reducing slug numbers. A combination of practices such as a reduction in stubble loads is generally required. For more information on slugs in Canola, or to organize an agronomist to visit, please contact your nearest Pursehouse Rural store.

