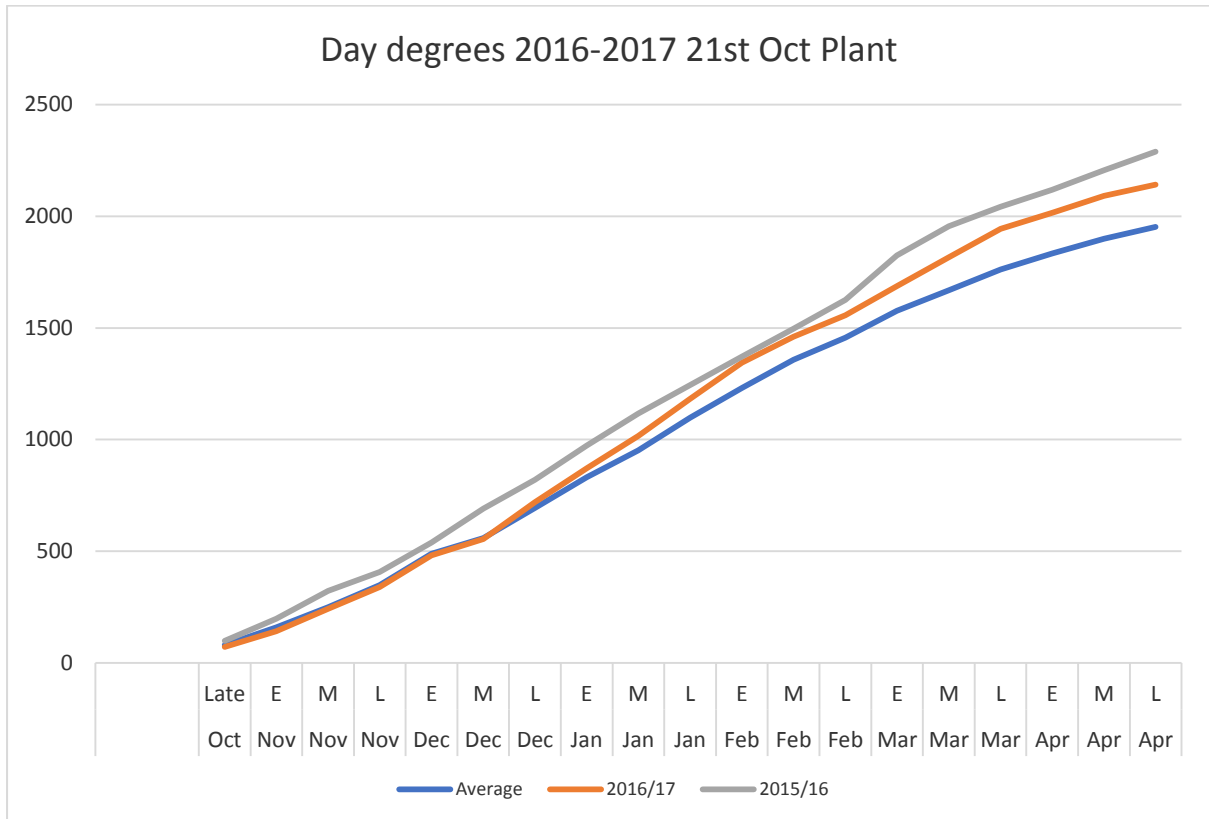


IREC Cotton industry report 2017

A challenging season

The 2016/17 season was a difficult growing season for cotton growers with a very wet start, cold shocks through November, high insect pressure prior to flowering then hot conditions through a short flowering period.



There have been no surprises with yields, with most in the 8 to 10 b/ha range with some earlier planted fields at 12 -14 b/ha. Crops planted into November had lower yields. In general quality has been base grade or better in most cases but there has been some low micronaire and leaf discounts.

Prices for lint and seed remain well above the long-term average. Even in a below average yielding season the returns per MI are still averaging \$210/MI or \$1,971/ha Gross margin.

Four new Bollgard 3 varieties were commercially grown for the first time this season and it will take a few more seasons to see where grower preferences

will end up. 714B3F was highest yielding in 3 of 4 local trials with 746B3F highest at the Hay variety trial.

The Cotton Australia Cotton Collective was held in southern NSW for the first time at Griffith recently with over 500 attending the event. The Australian Cotton Industry awards were held in conjunction with this event and the Australian Grower of the year award went to the local “Cavaso” Toscan family partnership, Darlington Point and Coleambally. This is a tremendous achievement for the whole Toscan team and a positive boost to the local irrigation industry.

The grower owned company Cotton Seed Distributors celebrated their 50th anniversary this year and a \$90 million redevelopment of the seed processing facility is well advanced at “Shearstone” Wee Waa. The facility will have the capacity to service the industry for the next 30 years with a target of producing cotton seed for 1 million hectares across Australia.

There has been very strong interest from new growers about to enter the cotton industry for the first time. Early seed orders indicate that planting intentions for next season will be over 80,000 ha for the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys.

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CottonInfo is a joint venture of CSD, CRDC and Cotton Australia.