



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Matt Toscan – Chair IREC, Irrigator, Darlington Point

QUICK TAKE

- Chairman's article for this year's Autumn Edition with lots happening in the crops around the region.



IREC UPDATE

Iva Quarisa – Executive Officer, IREC

QUICK TAKE

- A good look at pistachios
- Farming, Carbon and Common Cents
- A masterclass on improving irrigation



FRESH IDEAS FROM THE APPLE ISLE

IREC

QUICK TAKE

- Highlights from the GRDC- funded Optimising Irrigated Grains Project & the Australian Government-funded Flexible Farming Systems Project to Tasmania.



VALE WARREN MUIRHEAD

IREC

QUICK TAKE

- IREC pays tribute to Dr Warren Muirhead, one of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area's greatest contributors and supporters, who passed away in January 2025, aged 91 years.

To be able to read the full article you must be a member of IREC.

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PISTACHIOS: A HIGH-VALUE CROP WITH GROWTH POTENTIAL

Michele Valier – Riverina Nut Company, Leeton

QUICK TAKE

- Rising demand for pistachios is creating new opportunities for Australian farmers.
- Pistachios offer strong economic returns with efficient water use.
- New commercial plantings of budded trees are shortening the time for return on investment for orchardists.
- Emerging research and development are improving yields and profitability.
- Pistachios have reduced frost risk compared to other nut crops and do not require bees for pollination.



CANOLA VARIETY PERFORMANCE – 2024

Kathi Hertel – Technical Specialist (Pulses & Oilseeds) NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Dubbo

QUICK TAKE

- Average yield and average oil content were similar for triazine-tolerant, imidazolinonetolerant and glyphosate-tolerant canola varieties.
- Varieties within each herbicide tolerance group demonstrated distinct phenology differences.
- Varieties showed differences in lodging at maturity.
- Varieties included open-pollinated and hybrids, and single and dual-herbicide tolerance traits.
- Tolerance to herbicide groups included Groups 2, 5, 9, 5+2, 9+2, 9+5 and 9+10.CIA.



GROWING OPTIONS AND ACCESS FOR FERTILISER

QUICK TAKE

- Enhanced fertiliser services and new fertiliser technologies were the topic of the day at an event hosted by IREC and Incitec-Pivot Fertilisers.

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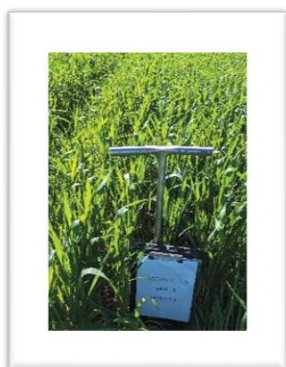


SOIL BASICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NAILING YOUR SOIL SAMPLING

Sarah Fraser – Soil Scientist Cool Soil Initiative, Wagga Wagga

QUICK TAKE

- Soil is a determining factor of plant growth (and yield).
- Soil fertility encompasses chemical, physical and biological components.
- Ensuring soil sampling is done correctly is crucial in making management decisions – if not you might be wasting your money on a number that isn't representative.
- This article revisits the primary principles of healthy soils for productive and sustainable farming.
- It is general information and decisions are best discussed with your agronomist or with soil experts.



COOL SOIL INITIATIVE DRIVING INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE CROPPING

Dr Cassandra Schefe – Principal Scientist - Cool Soil Initiative & AgriSci Pty Ltd &
Dr Alice Melland – Senior Research Fellow, University of Southern Queensland

QUICK TAKE

- The Cool Soil Initiative is expanding its research and support program for growers.
- New innovations include enhanced data reporting and natural capital assessment.
- Green urea trials are testing urease and nitrification inhibitors to reduce nitrogen losses with initial results showing emissions reduction potential. Further trials are planned.



REDUCING THE WATER USE OF COTTON

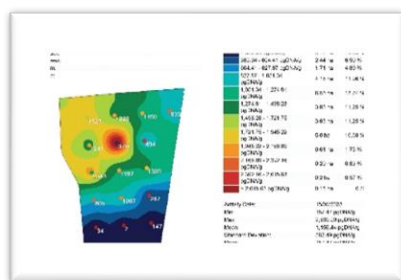
IREC

QUICK TAKE

- Whitton cotton growers are trialling a new layout to increase water use efficiency.

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USING SPATIAL MAPPING TO COMBAT DISEASE PRESSURE IN COTTON

Rob Long and Jake Johnstone – Crown Analytical Services

QUICK TAKE

- Disease in cotton crops costs the industry 14% of the annual cost of production.
- DNA diagnostics for plant diseases affecting grains and horticulture has been available for some time. Now there are diagnostics for black root rot and verticillium wilt in cotton.
- The results of disease testing can be integrated into paddock mapping systems, to provide information on disease build-up and disease spread in cotton paddocks.



SPRAY DRIFT: WHY IS IT STILL HAPPENING?

Keiran O'Keeffe – Regional Extension Officer, Southern NSW CottonInfo team

QUICK TAKE

- Despite education and awareness in the industry, spray drift continues to be an issue.
- A clear set of guidelines has been prepared for growers and operators – these steps need to be adhered to at all times.
- Through levies on grains and cotton, growers have funded R&D for some very effective tools to guide decisions about when to spray – use these to your advantage and for the advantage of your neighbours!



AUTUMN CROP RESIDUE BURNING

Neil Bull – Policy and Project Manager Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, Leeton

QUICK TAKE

- Sometimes, burning crop residue is a necessity for farmers in irrigation areas of southern NSW.
- In crops like rice and corn, stubble burning is the best option for preparation and sowing of the next crop in the rotation, enabling the use of soil moisture retained from the previous crop.
- In horticulture, farmers may remove vines or trees from permanent plantings so they can rejuvenate their plantings or change to a more profitable crop. Burning may be the only option for pulled out trees or vines.
- Low mixing height and the wind direction directed towards towns and workplaces are the key weather conditions that lead to community impacts from autumn crop residue burning.

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100 YEARS OF YENDA PRODUCERS: A LEGACY OF GROWTH, COMMUNITY AND INNOVATION

Yenda Producers

QUICK TAKE

- In 1925, 10 farmers from Yenda started a cooperative to gain mutual benefits in marketing and acquiring supplies.
- Over the decades, the Yenda Producers Cooperative expanded its offerings to meet the evolving needs of the farming industry, while remaining deeply connected to its roots.
- Celebrating a century of operation, Yenda Producers is committed to supporting innovation in farming, advocating for its members and strengthening its role as a key partner in Australian agriculture.

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