

Crop Check Report Cotton Windy Station

Field 13 on Windy Station was planted with Sicot 71BR dry land in early October. The field has previously received the standard 2 x 250ml/ha TM applications applied to each crop it has grown for the past 5 years which is a constant rotation of wheat, cotton, sorghum for 2 consecutive years, then sunflowers. Manure from the cattle feedlot is spread across the field every 4 years. The cotton was sown on a full moisture profile and a total of rain received from October to December 2014 was 114.5 millilitres.

Windy Station has been steadily reducing their applications of anhydrous ammonia from approximately 140 units to 60 units over the last 5 years on all crops since using TM.

In accordance with independent soil analysis of the field last year, the amount of nitrogen recommended was 45 units. The Farming Manager of Windy Station, Peter Winton applied 50 units of nitrogen to the field in the form of anhydrous ammonia as well as 300ml/ha of Twin Zinc as well as 20L/ha of Flow Phos before the crop was planted.

Peter decided to do a large test strip of 20 units of anhydrous ammonia, however the gas rig would not calibrate that low so Peter decided to shut it off completely for the trial. The machine was pulled through the field with the gas turned off to keep the soil disturbance the same. When examining the cotton in the both the zero nitrogen and 50 units of nitrogen areas of the field there was no visible difference, the crop was at 21 nodes and the nodes above white flower (NAWF) were 8 in both areas which shows that the crop is not under any stress and is intending to grow more fruit.



TM Crop with 0% Nitrogen



TM Crop with 50 units Nitrogen

Leaves were collected from the 0% N and N areas of the field and analysed by the CSIRO for their Nitrogen levels, as can be seen from the below results. Dr Ian Rochester, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Agriculture at Narrabri who carried out the leaf analysis tests commented that the 4.5% for leaf at early flowering is pretty much ideal for high yielding cotton.

Windy Station 50U N 4.59

Windy Station 0% N 4.53

Keiran Knight *B.Bus (Ag Comm)*
Best Environmental Technologies Pty Ltd
0447955114
kknight@bestenvirotech.com



www.bestenvirotech.com.au

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