

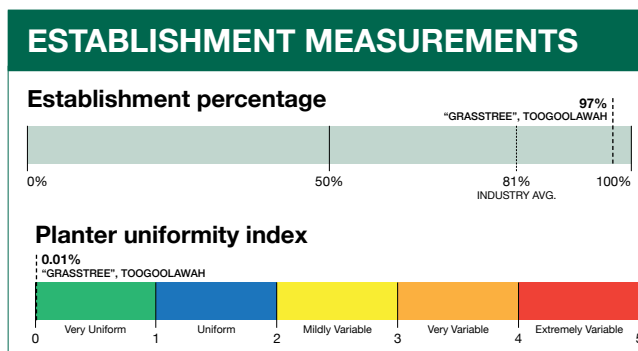


2020-21 FASTSTART™ COTTON ESTABLISHMENT AWARDS

IRRIGATED COTTON WINNER - MARK COWLEY, TOGOOLAWAH QLD

SNAPSHOT	
Grower name	Mark Cowley
Farm and location	“Grasstree”, Toogoolawah QLD
Farm size	120 ha
Enterprise	Cotton, maize and barley
Cotton production	Irrigated
Cotton varieties	Sicot 714B3F, Sicot 746B3F, Sicot 748B3F, Sicot 606B3F
Seed treatments	VIBRANCE® COMPLETE + CRUISER® 600FS (V2C)
Soil types	Sandy loam
Summer crop area	35 ha
Cotton crop area	35 ha
Avg. growing season rainfall	840 mm
Planting equipment	Norseman planter
Planting rate	10.6 seeds/m
Avg. planter speed	7.5 km/hour
Avg. planting depth	2 cm

CROP SUMMARY	
Planting date	4 November, 2020
Establishment method	Rain moisture
Previous crop	Multi supreme cover crop
Plant stand/m	10.2 plants/m (97%)
In-crop irrigations	3
Rainfall	366.6 mm
Soil applied insecticide	Nil
Nitrogen	129 kg/ha
Phosphorus	15 kg/ha
Potassium	35 kg/ha
Zinc	0.5 kg/ha



PREPARATION

Describe your field preparation prior to planting

The mixed species cover crop (lupins, barley, ryecorn, vetch, radish, field pea and oats) was sprayed out with Roundup, rolled and then planted.

What weed control tactics do you employ prior to or post planting?

The cover crop was sprayed out with Roundup.

What is your fertiliser application strategy? Do you soil test?

Yes, we had a soil test conducted by our CGS agronomist, and then all fertiliser application was completed in-crop.

How do you prepare your planter/machinery?

A pre-season planter checkup was completed by Norseman and we also ensure that all other machines are checked prior to use.



DECISION MAKING

Why did you select your chosen varieties for your farming system?

We had some good conversations with our agronomist from CGS, John Ash; and Chris Barry from CSD about the most suitable varieties for my region and farm. We also reviewed CSD variety trial results on the CSD website to compare different varieties.

What seed treatments did you use, and why did you select these?

We selected the industry standard of VIBRANCE® COMPLETE + CRUISER® 600FS (V2C).

Do you use a lubricant to assist with seed flow?

Yes, we used Synchrony 746.

TIMING

When did you plant, and how did you make this decision?

Planting commenced on 4 November, 2020 based on the recommendation from the FastStart™ Soil Temperature Network and the local conditions.

Did you water up or pre-irrigate or establish on rainfall?

The crop was planted on rain moisture.

IRRIGATION

When do you apply your first irrigation, and how do you make this decision?

First irrigation went on when the subsoil moisture was drying down - approximately two weeks after planting.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Did you use any of the FastStart/CSD online tools?

Yes, we used the FastStart™ Soil Temperature Network and the traffic light system. We also have a FastStart weather station on farm, and thank CSD and Syngenta for this support.

How have you been supported in your first year of cotton production?

We have received great support and knowledge from Chris Barry (CSD); and John Ash and the team of agronomists from CGS.



MARK'S TOP 5 TIPS FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

1. Manage soil preparation after harvest to get cover crop planted.
2. Select variety carefully.
3. Make sure planter is set up correctly.
4. Nail your soil temperature, seed placement and check the depth at planting.
5. Ensure moisture is not getting away when planting, get out into the field and check.

I am very privileged to win the FastStart™ Cotton Establishment Award. Our focus is on soil health and we believe that cover crops are key to healthy productive soil. This year we planted directly into a 5 feet tall multi-species cover crop, we also decided not to lay any synthetic fertilisers down pre plant. Instead, we opted for a single liquid application at planting to help with root development and plant establishment. No matter what you're growing, seed establishment should be top of everybody's agenda.

