



syngenta



DRYLAND COTTON WINNER



# FastStart™ 2021-22 COTTON ESTABLISHMENT AWARDS

SNAPSHOT	
Grower name	Will and Ben Coulton
Farm and location	“Mullala”, Boggabilla NSW
Farm size (ha)	6,500
Enterprise (crops grown)	Chickpea, wheat, barley, sorghum and cotton
Cotton production	Irrigated
Cotton variety	Sicot 748B3F
Seed treatment	V2C
Soil type	Heavy clays
Summer crop area (ha)	1,750
Cotton crop area (ha)	1750
Avg. summer rainfall (mm)	320
Planting equipment	John Deere MaxEmerge
Planting rate (seeds/m)	12.5
Avg. planter speed (km/hr)	9
Avg. planting depth (cm)	2.5

CROP SUMMARY	
Planting date	07/10/2021
Establishment method	Rain moisture
Previous crop	Long fallow barley
Plant stand/m	12.1
Rainfall (mm)	449
Soil applied insecticide	N/A
Nitrogen (kg/ha)	0 (527 kg/ha residual)
Phosphorus (kg/ha)	18 kg/ha
Potassium (kg/ha)	34 kg/ha
Zinc (kg/ha)	0.825 kg/ha

## PREPARATION

### DESCRIBE YOUR FIELD PREPARATION PRIOR TO PLANTING

Minimum field preparation, planted straight into stubble.

### WHAT WEED CONTROL TACTICS DO YOU EMPLOY PRIOR TO OR POST PLANTING?

After cereal harvest, 100gms of balance then weed it till planting. Gramoxone and dual gold post planting. Due to strict rotations other residuals are used after each different crop to spread the herbicide groups.

### WHAT IS YOUR FERTILISER APPLICATION STRATEGY? DO YOU SOIL TEST?

Yes, we soil test each year. 150kgs of cotton. Sustain is applied after peas and before wheat. Urea is applied by disc during the winter before planting cotton.

### HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOUR PLANTER/MACHINERY?

We spent a good few days on them before planting but rarely have a problem with them.



94.4%

ESTABLISHMENT PERCENTAGE



0.28%

PLANTER UNIFORMITY INDEX (PUI)



The FastStart program is a great program allowing us to get our head back into the game of growing cotton. No matter how many times you have planted the crop it is a great tool to use as a check sheet and always pick up something each year. It maybe only something small but it gets everyone on the same page again especially when you normally have winter harvest on at the same time.



### WHY DID YOU SELECT YOUR CHOSEN VARIETIES FOR YOUR FARMING SYSTEM?

Sicot 748B3F for dryland is hardier, Sicot 746B3F irrigation but Sicot 748B3F in back to back cotton fields.

### DO YOU USE A LUBRICANT TO ASSIST WITH SEED FLOW?

We used Talcum powder.

### TIMING

#### WHEN DID YOU PLANT, AND HOW DID YOU MAKE THIS DECISION?

Decisions were made based on the soil temperature, rail fall prediction, and workload to fit it in before harvest.

#### DID YOU WATER UP OR PRE-IRRIGATE OR ESTABLISH ON RAINFALL?

Both dry and irrigation was up on rain moisture this year.

### FASTSTART SUPPORT

#### DID YOU USE ANY OF THE FASTSTART/ CSD ONLINE TOOLS?

Yes, they were helpful to read through to get your mind on planting again, there is always something to try differently each year.

#### HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT FASTSTART AND THE FASTSTART AWARD PROGRAM?

Macintyre independent agronomist Dave Kelly and Alex North.

### WILL'S TOP 5 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- 1 **Establishment** - A lot to catch up on if a poor plant stand.
- 2 **Soil temperature** - Rising temperatures and a clear forecast with no cold snaps.
- 3 **Nutrition** - We like to have a big lick down early on.
- 4 **Weed control** - Residuals and no green line between seasons. Weedit is also a great tool.
- 5 **Stubble** - Do your earthworks before the cereal crop so that the stubble isn't disturbed, run the trash wipers through the country a few months out from planting if trash is too thick.

