



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COTTON
GROWERS & IRRIGATORS ASSOC.

Come Clean Go Clean protocol amendments to reduce spread of Mealybug

Movement of Equipment into the Area

Contractors moving farm machinery equipment into the Central Highlands are still expected to be inspected as per the Come Clean Go Clean protocol. Growers are asked to communicate these requirements to their contractors.

A list of contractors that have been inspected will be distributed by the CHCG&IA to determine effectiveness of the protocol and track compliance.

Movement of Equipment within a Farm

It is up to individual growers to determine how to reduce spread of mealy bug. If infestation is restricted to a couple of fields growers should consider restricting spread by washing down as per farm protocol or picking infested fields last.

Farm to Farm Movement of Equipment

Within the Central Highlands the *Solenopsis* mealybug has only been found in the West Irrigation Area and on a few farms east of the town. While the crawlers can be moved by wind and water, assisted movement (people/equipment) potentially plays a major role in movement over longer distances.

- Good farm biosecurity should be maintained.
- Equipment wash down;
 - Machinery that has been involved in a field operation should be considered high risk – pickers, builders, boll buggies, chain bed and flat top trucks, in-field loaders, tractors and stubble mulchers and slashers.
 - Equipment should be cleaned to remove all soil and plant material and Farmcleanse applied as per Fusarium protocols.
 - A final spray treatment of Pulse Penetrant[®] at a concentration of at least 0.5% or 500mls per 100L should be used. (*Concentrations of less than 0.5% Pulse have reduced ability to kill mealybugs.*)
 - Read and follow the Pulse label and permit (**PER12056**) for directions for mixing, protection of the environment, storage and disposal and safety directions.
 - Apply Pulse Penetrant[®] at 0.5% solution ensuring that all surfaces are well covered at least to the point of run off.
 - Mealybugs will move into crevices and upwards to the highest parts of machinery. Ensure that these upper surfaces are well covered with Pulse mixture.
 - Allow to dry. Do not rinse off.
 - The interior of the equipment should be cleaned of any debris. Application of personal insect repellent or ultra low allergenic fly spray may assist with disinfection.
- Personal hygiene;
 - Crawlers (the juvenile stage of mealybug) are around 1mm long are not easily visible. They can be carried on people and clothing. Growers and consultants need to consider this when visiting farms.
 - Enter clean fields first, infested fields last.
 - Spray yourself and clothing with insect repellent (e.g. Aerogard) before entering fields that may be infested with mealybugs. This may deter mealybug from clinging to clothing.

- When moving from infested fields to clean fields (or outside the area) ensure you change clothing, shower, wipe off hats and boots and re-treat with insect repellent. Seal 'infested' clothing in a plastic bag until able to machine wash.
- Particular emphasis should be given to washing down and decontamination of machinery when moving between areas of known infestation to areas where mealybugs have not been detected. When determining their farm biosecurity requirements, growers need to consider the risk that some farms could have mealybugs and not yet have detected them.
- Growers need to ensure that good communication with the contractors is maintained and reinforce Come Clean Go Clean requirements. As contractors are preparing to leave a farm, growers should ensure they wash down and provide suitable area to do so. If this isn't possible, alternate arrangements should be made; facilities (including wash down equipment) are available at the Emerald sale yards.

- Equipment leaving the area must be inspected as per Come Clean Go Clean protocol. Inspection Certificates will be recommended as best practice for all cotton farm equipment leaving Central Queensland. This inspection may be conducted at the Emerald Sale Yards or on-farm.
- To organise inspections please contact Natalie Dearden on 0427843107.
- 48 hours notice is required.

Post Harvest

- Module movement;
 - Growers are asked to leave modules sit for 24 hours before movement to the gin. This will allow a reduction in the number of live mealy bugs being transported through the area.
 - Module movement contractors can minimise potential mealybug spread by clean down and Pulse treatment (as above) between production areas.
 - Growers are encouraged to talk to the gin and module movement contractors to discuss their requirements for clean down between gin and farm.
- Crop Removal
 - It is essential that crop destruction is as timely as possible after picking.
 - Any plants left in the field will be hosts for mealybug build up over the winter. All stub [ratoon] cotton should be removed as soon as possible.
 - The CGA will send a notice to all growers advising when the last of the cotton has been removed. At this time growers should concentrate on keeping their fields free of weeds, ratoon and volunteer cotton.
- Winter (ground prep)
 - Ensure good general farm hygiene in non-crop areas.
 - Keep fallow and cropped fields weed free.

**APVMA PERMIT NUMBER - PER12056
 TO ALLOW MINOR USE OF AN AGVET CHEMICAL PRODUCT
 FOR POST HARVEST TREATMENT OF COTTON FARM MACHINERY**
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