

Bourke

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SECTION 4 AREA ROUNDUP

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Irrigators in the Bourke district started the 2008–09 season with storages at around 20 per cent capacity. A total of 1580 hectares was planted which yielded an average of 9.95 bales per hectare. Average turnout for the region was 37.5 per cent and quality was generally good.

Day degrees were close to average for the season, however a large storm in mid February dropped hail and 250 mm of rain onto Bourke crops. Around 140 hectares was wiped out completely and 100 hectares

suffered 50 per cent yield loss from being inundated with water.

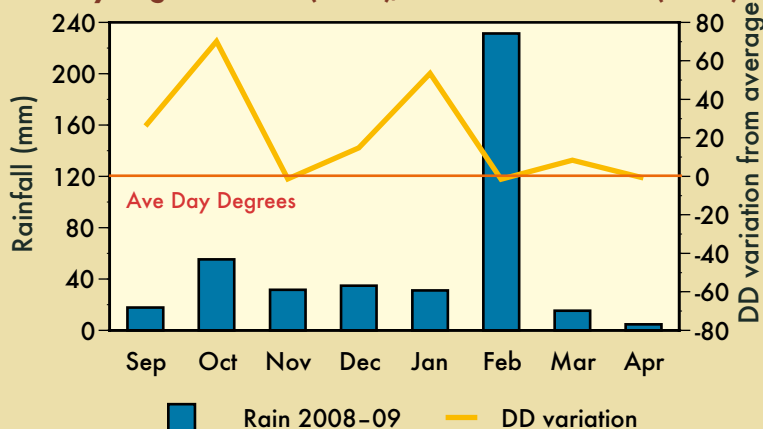
Insect pressure was fairly light with none of the usual large punctigera egg lays. Most crops only received one insecticide for sucking pests and any mite or aphid sprays applied were largely preventative.

Prospects for the 2009–10 season are promising with storages approximately 80 per cent full and 5500 hectares of cotton planned.



Bourke 2008–09 seasonal climate

Total Day Degrees: 3133 (+169); Total rain: 422 mm (+167)



	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Cold shock	18	8	0	0	0	0	0	6	32 (-5)
Hot shock	0	7	5	17	25	10	4	0	68 (+13)

*Average day degrees from 1957 to 2009.

Source: CSIRO Plant Industry.

Bourke: Area and production

