

## **Getting the message out: WEEDpak – a developing weed identification and management guide for the Australian cotton industry**

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**Summary** The development of effective weed management strategies hinge on an understanding of weed taxonomy, biology and ecology. Providing relevant accessible information to aid these decision making processes within specific farming systems requires a multifaceted approach. The Australian Cotton Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) is developing a resource that includes weed related information and decision support tools for cotton farming systems known as WEEDpak. WEEDpak will encompass both weed specific and farming systems issues, for example insect and disease control, crop agronomy, crop nutrition and irrigation management, to provide a whole system weed management approach.

WEEDpak will comprise three core components, the first dealing with integrated weed management, the second with weed identification and the third, a cotton

specific management guide. It will also provide support information on a variety of other weed related issues, for example the management of weeds with Roundup Ready™ cotton and the management of problem weeds. When complete, WEEDpak will be distributed widely to cotton growers, consulting agronomists and other personnel through the Australian Cotton CRC Technology Resource Centre. Information will also be included on the Australian Cotton CRC website in a readily updated and fully downloadable format. The extensive research and extension network within the cotton industry will facilitate additional training and promotion of WEEDpak. Ultimately, we aim to provide the information in a format suitable for hand held computers such as the Palm Pilot™, a device increasingly being used by cotton agronomists.