

PEANUT FACT SHEET

Cotton growers: Have you considered peanuts?

- * Profitable high value rotation crop
- * Improves soil profile and may assist with nutgrass control
- * Provides a break in monoculture and “free” nitrogen for following crop
- * Dollar return on infrastructure / water costs
- * Can be planted using existing equipment and soil beds
- * Fixed contracts with Peanut Company of Australia
- * Assistance from PCA’s Farming Services Department
- * Soil tests and contract harvesting can be arranged

GROWER TESTIMONIAL

“Peanuts are one of our better crops!”

Scott Coventry, from Bonshaw in northern NSW, does something which is very common in the United States but is much less so in Australia ... he's a cotton grower who also grows peanuts.

Scott farms the 1800ha property 'Coomooroo' with his brother Ian and father Richard.

The Coventry family has been growing peanuts for almost 10 years. In 2005-2006, they achieved an average 7.1 t/ha payweight yield, an excellent result by any standard!

"Peanuts are one of our better crops," Scott said.

Scott said a typical rotation



ABOVE: Agronomist Patrick Jones (Goondiwindi) with Scott Coventry (Bonshaw)

cycle was peanuts, wheat, fallow, cotton and then peanuts again.

Agronomist Patrick Jones,

from Goondiwindi, said soil picked up between 60 and 90kg of nitrogen after peanuts, depending on the soil type.

Another big advantage for cotton growers was the dollar returns per megalitre of water used.

"Water management in peanuts is not unlike cotton and peanuts use a similar amount of water," Patrick said. "But returns on peanuts are much higher than cotton with current prices.

"Unfortunately not all cotton growing soils are suitable for peanuts. Peanuts grow best in friable, sandy or sandy loam soils."


Peanut Company
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Peanuts by PCA