

July 2017 Agronomy News

In this issue:

Lentils- what should we be doing now?

Spartacus CL barley- dos and don'ts

Wheat- a rising commodity

Countdown- a new ryegrass pre-em working very well

Chickpeas- what do we do now?

The weather report

Economics of nitrogen

Brome grass resistance

Field peas- the to do list

Pest Watch- Russian Wheat Aphid and Mice

Lentils: What should we be doing now?

Zinc on lentils is often forgotten. A mild deficiency will present as lower crop vigour and paler colour compared to other areas of a paddock. Severe deficiencies will appear as browning of the leaf margins, and even leaf shedding when other stresses come on.

Ross Brennan from WA Dept Ag (2001) determined that the sensitivity of crops to zinc deficiency went in the order of faba bean < chickpea < wheat < lentil (highest sensitivity)

If a zinc compound or zinc blended fertiliser was used up front, here are a couple of easy foliar options;

Brodal + Zintrac, Brodal + zinc sulphate solution

Haloxypop + Zintrac, Haloxypop + zinc sulphate

Ascochyta management:

Lentil stubbles from last year are releasing AB spores which are blowing with each windy day. The P-Pickle T seed treatment is wearing off now, so we need to incorporate a fungicide with our second grass spray.

Our choices are chlorothalonil (\$19-31/ha) and mancozeb (\$13-19/ha). Piggy backing with that second grass spray utilises the surfactant package for greater leaf coverage

Spartacus barley- dos and don'ts

Spartacus CL barley (malt status being evaluated) has been widely adopted due to reliable yield advantage over Scope CL, and ease of harvest. Just a couple of handy hints though:

1. Spartacus is susceptible to spot form of net blotch. It's ok to have a few lesions in the lower canopy, but action needs to be taken if the upper leaves start to become infected.
2. Leaf Scald resistance rating can vary with location- areas that grew Hindmarsh for a number of years are likely to be very susceptible.
3. All barley varieties are very sensitive to Russian Wheat Aphid- check for any increase in numbers through the August "sprinter" period
4. Feed nitrogen around the 4 leaf stage (5 leaf at the latest)- barley needs tillers to yield

PEARSONS

Pearson's Grain and Transport
Swan Hill Stockfeeds

Wheat- a rising commodity

The rise of wheat values (+\$54/t) is a refreshing sign, as is the crop condition of first year wheat crops on legume stubbles.

Wheat as a second year cereal can be tricky, here's why.

Low nitrogen at the start, and niggling background rhizo-determine whether rhizo is an issue or not by assessing root development on sandier soil types. Foliar zinc can help recovery from rhizo or deep seeding significantly. Topdressing wheat crops with nitrogen can be very successful through July by hanging onto the secondary tiller (as well as increasing flag leaf size).

Yitpi or *Scepter* as a second cereal? Can be ok in the absence of IMI residues, but *Yitpi* suffers badly from Yellow Leaf Spot- watch this. *Scepter* can sometimes get stripe rust early if there were summer/ autumn volunteers in the neighbourhood

Kord on Kord- was proven to be profitable last year. This year it might pay to give the IMI a miss on the second crop to prevent soil residue build up should the summer be a dry one.

Countdown pre-em

Ryegrass is a bit of a problem after last year. We have had excellent feedback from *Countdown* (prosulfocarb) in front of wheat and barley (see below)



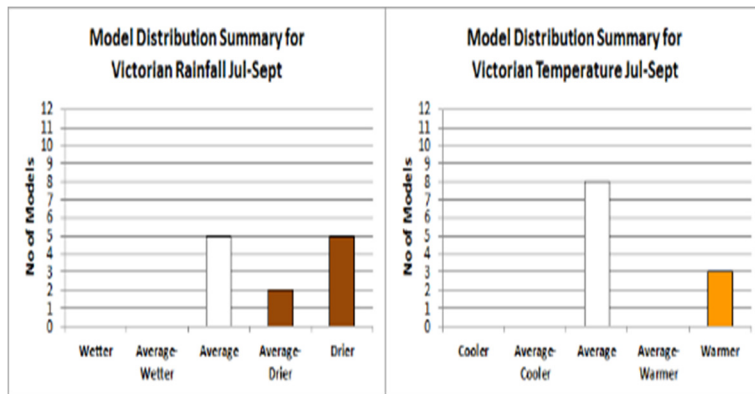
Chickpeas- what do we do now?

Chickpeas are slow growing in the winter, but we need to remember ascochyta blight can multiply quickly relative to the leaf development.

Last year Dr, Jason Brand's Mallee trials showed a 19% reduction in yield with Gen 090 without fungicide protection (\$-403), and 70% reduction for PBA Slasher (\$-1242).

The fungus has mutated, so the standard resistance ratings of all chickpea varieties have been lowered.

The 2016 pulse stubbles are now releasing spores every day, so there are massive financial losses from not continuing with foliar fungicides.



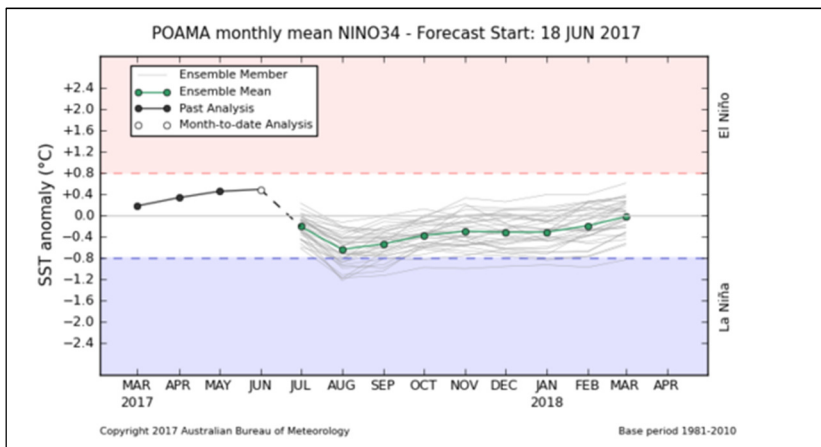
Weather report

It's been a very dry June, but having said that we have had an exceptional break (which WA, SA and northern NSW missed out on)

5/12 models predict "average rainfall", which is 107mm for the months of July to October.

Should we receive 66% of average, our yield potential is 2.7t/ha (nitrogen unlimited). Should we receive this average (especially Sep/Oct), our potential is 3.6t/ha.

One of the overseas 14 day models displays an alert for rain on the 13/7; watch this one!



Economics of nitrogen topdressing

With a favourable spring finish, an application of 40 units of nitrogen can increase cereal yields by 700kg/ha. That's \$168 return for \$40 investment (including \$6 for spreading).

This is largely driven by increased head size on the main stem, and retention of the secondary tiller

Call Brett for an update on urea availability



Brome grass management

We should be nervous about the reliance on Group B (ie. Imis) for brome control. Dr. Chris Preston (Adelaide Uni) has identified a population of imi resistant (3x label rate) great brome.

We should consider crop topping both legumes and cereals this year, as well as increasing the area to hay and brown manure in 2018. (Photo courtesy Dr. Preston)

PEARSONS

Pearson's Grain and Transport
Swan Hill Stockfeeds

Field peas- on the to do list

Peas have a bit of growing to do. Be aware that you can mix quizalofop and Brodal successfully without compromising grass weed control, so two jobs could be incorporated into one pass. Do not mix Brodal with clethodim or haloxyfop.

Blackspot will be a problem, especially if the peas are next door to a 2016 pea stubble. June is normally the month of greatest spore release- this is actually occurring now after last weeks' showers.

Mancozeb is registered for black spot in peas, and compatible with haloxyfop and clethodim. Last years' Southern Pulse Agronomy trials showed chlorothalonil has better prevention and control of black spot, and is covered by registration for downy mildew in processing peas.



Pest Watch

First sign of Russian Wheat Aphid (RWA) at Kerang in wheat. The seed was treated with imidacloprid, so not surprising we only found one plant infested in a 400 acre paddock.

In situations where only a few plants are infested (including crops not treated with imidacloprid), its best to wait until later to see if it's worth spending the money on chlopyrifos or pirimicarb- there is very little value in going in early, as more aphids can fly in during August and September during the "sprinter" period.

Mice- a few are still around, even after one or two baiting runs. We are seeing some cereal crops loosing tillers to mice chewing the base of the stems.

When we see this happening, we should confirm by a night time monitoring. There is a new generation of mice growing up, so there could be more issues in the spring.

Doug Clark 0418 527849 Brett Smith 0438 324591