

PEARSONS

Pearson's Grain and Transport
Swan Hill Stockfeeds

Agronomy News June-July 2018

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The Weather report

The obvious summary of the first 5 months for 2018 has been very dry, but exceeds the Decile 1 (11.8mm).

This has been the story for Cocamba and Balranald:

Station	Nov-Dec 2017	Jan-May 2018	To 14 th June 2018
Cocamba	86mm	21mm	26.6mm
Balranald	159mm	37.6mm	14mm

This dry start by no means condemns the year- 2005 for example (a 3t/ha year) was a June break following zero falls in April and May.

Wheat yield potential:

If a sandy soil (90% PAW) at Cocamba were to receive the median rain for July to October (82.4mm), we have; $(0.9 \times 86) + (0.9 \times 21) + 26.6 + 82.4 - 70\text{mm evaporation} = 135.3\text{mm PAW} \times 20\text{kg/mm} = 2.7\text{t/ha}$

Frost and clethodim reminder

The cloudless nights lately are being followed by significant frosts the following morning.

We must remember to not only avoid spraying clethodim mixes after a frost, but definitely one or two days before a predicted frost. Otherwise the ryegrass control can be reduced noticeably

Brome in conventional wheat

We must be checking now for emerging brome grass in conventional wheat such as Scepter. The ideal timing for Atlantis and Rexade label is up to the 3 leaf stage of brome.

Adding a dash of Bronco MA-X to Atlantis has helped with Group B tolerant fumitory

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Tank mixing guide

Most problems with tank mixing are associated with incorrect mixing order, or cold water. Here is a very reliable mixing order by formulation:

- 1. Start with the spray tank half full of water**
- 2. Water conditioners eg. AMS**
- 3. Trace elements**
- 4. Water soluble bags eg. Broadstrike**
- 5. Dry flowable products eg. Mancozeb**
- 6. Wettable powders**
- 7. Suspension concentrates eg. Brodal**
- 8. Emulsifiable concentrates eg. LVE, Tigrex**
- 9. Water solubles**
- 10. Surfactants**

Try to avoid filling sprayers the night before use, as smaller volumes of water become colder than large bodies of water.

Take time to allow products to agitate and become evenly dispersed before adding ECs- the oil can form a sludge.

Severe copper deficiency at the vegetative stage



Copper deficiency in wheat at heading- sterile grain sites and twisted flag leaf



**PLANT SCIENCE
CONSULTING**
By Dr. Peter Boutsalis

Brome grass resistance to IMI

This recent May 2018 press release from Plant Science Consulting (Adelaide);

“Second brome sample 100% resistant to Intervix confirmed near Swan Hill. Sample 100% resistant to Verdict and Select too. Control now very challenging.”

This is startling proof that IMIs can be over used and become ineffective to our most problematic weed, brome grass.

We cannot ignore this warning- it is vital to plan for chemical rotation, plus non-chemical controls within the rotation, or cropping will become cattle farming!

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New product now available- foliar multi-trace element

Swan Hill Stockfeeds Sandhill and Limestone Blend

8.5 Zn, 5.1 Mn, 1.7 Cu, 0.17 Mo, 8.0S (%w/v)

This is a high load trace element package with more nutrients per litre than the competitors. The SHSF Sandhill and Limestone blend has been developed for the areas north of the Mallee highway that go from heavy flats to deep sands in the same paddock. With a use rate of 1.1L/ha this product comes out at \$1.98/ha or 80 cents per acre, and is compatible with IMIs, LVE, haloxyfop, DFF etc.

Zinc- vital to the strength of plant cell walls, especially the roots. In the native state, all Mallee soil types from clay loams to sands were deficient in zinc, and only where regular zinc additions in fertiliser had been applied is the soil capable of supplying crop needs. When zinc levels in crop tissue falls away because of dilution due to crop growth, plant capabilities fall away too- disease resistance and lower water extraction in the spring and haying off are common examples

Copper- deficiencies in copper are usually restricted to deep sands, which locally are young soils derived from relocation and reworking of Big Desert coastal sand material. Copper is important for pollination and grain set- recent GRDC work has identified copper as a positive management tool for mitigating frost effects.

Manganese- Mn deficiency is usually restricted to highly calcareous, high pH topsoils, but also in coarse deep sands. Classic Mn deficient soils are grey limestone pebbly soils and red soils with high stone rubble content.

Molybdenum- deficiency can sometimes occur with lupins and peas grown on deep sands. These sands are actually on the slightly acidic side of pH neutral. Molybdenum deficiency reduces nodulation and nitrogen production. Mo is only required in minute quantities, so it is very cheap to incorporate into a product.

For the medium soils south of the Mallee Highway it is likely that the use of *Zintrac* will continue- the nitrogen content in Zintrac aids uptake and the oxide formulation persists longer in the plant to increase grain zinc content for seedling vigour. Zintrac is also compatible with MCPA 750 and 2,4-D 625, as well as all the other chemicals.

Further reading: International Plant Nutrition Institute "Micronutrients Copper and Manganese

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Chemical Industry News

Glyphosate has moved into the softening side of the price cycle due to increasing production. The timing has been good for those wanting to purchase before the end of the 2018FY. Clethodim had been down over summer, then went up in autumn - suggest chat to Smithy to capture the old pricing.

New glyphosate product

Sabakem have just been awarded registration for a new glyphosate product. It is a high load 550g/L potassium (K) and monoethanolamine (MEA) salt formulation. Potassium (K) salts are well known, such as Wipe-Out Accelerate, Gladiator Optimax, Loaded 517.

MEA salts are now being incorporated with novel surfactants to improve herbicide compatibilities. Glyphosate 550 Twin Salt will compete in the same space as Roundup Dura for mixability

It is expected a label extension for Saba Glyphosate 550 Twin Salt will be granted in a year or so for full compatibility with Amine 625.



Glyphosate 550 Twin Salt
Group M herbicide



New terbutryn formulation

IGRAN is back! Farmalinx has released a granular formulation of terbutryn called Holt 750 WG that is a little softer on crop, especially peas.

Terbutryn (Group C) is excellent on amsinckia, ironweed, deadnettle and all three fumitory species. It is reputedly extremely active on stative- we will be trialling this troublesome weed this year

HOLT 750WG comes in at \$8.00/ha at the 367g/ha rate. It is best mixed with MCPA 750 to increase activity on mustards and turnips.

Last year we tested Holt, Holt + diflufenican and Holt + Ecopar on PBA Wharton peas just prior to frost and found it very safe.

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Australia increases tariff on Chinese 2,4-D

On the 24th April the Australian Anti-Dumping Commission increased the import tariff on Chinese 2,4-D technical products and fully formulated chemicals. The original tariff was 5%, however following Nufarm's 2016 submissions the tariff has been increased to 25.6% for the Rainbow Chemical Company and 35.3% for all other Chinese manufacturers.

What does this all mean to us?

The price of 2,4-D products in Australia will possibly react in 9-12 months' time, when existing inventory thin out. An increase in price is then inevitable....We would not expect the price increase to be directly proportional to the extra 20-30% tariff as there are 2,4-D suppliers in the UK, India, Poland and Malaysia who could partially replace Chinese supply and effectively soften the price.

Plan your barley fungicides

We may not end up with heavy crop canopies or a seriously wet spring, but we must be mindful of "sucker" varieties

Spartacus is everywhere for its yield potential and harvestability. It is SVS for SFNB, which can reduce tillering and grain yield and size

RGT Planet certainly has some yield advantages in the >3t/ha yield bracket. When that is likely, fungicides may be needed to manage NFNB, SFNB and seedling leaf rust.

If it were to start raining in NSW, there could be demand pressure on propiconazole, so keep an eye on the northern break

POISON
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
READ SAFETY DIRECTIONS BEFORE OPENING OR USING

FARMALINX
Propicon 550 EC

FUNGICIDE

ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 550 g/L PROPICONAZOLE
SOLVENT: 371 g/L LIQUID HYDROCARBON

GROUP **3** FUNGICIDE

For the control of certain fungal diseases of Bananas, Oats, Peanuts, Perennial Ryegrass, Pineapples, Stone Fruit, Sugar Cane, Wheat and other crops in certain states and for the control of Dollar spot in Bent and Queensland Blue Couch, and Spring Dead Spot in Couch as specified in the DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

IMPORTANT: READ THE ATTACHED LEAFLET BEFORE USING THIS PRODUCT

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"The road to success runs uphill"- American footballer Willie Davis

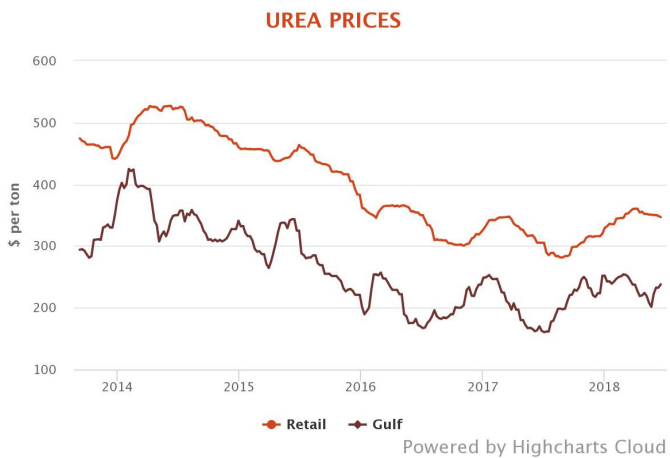
Nitrogen fertiliser update

The nitrogen market has yo-yoed over the last 12 months. The biggest influence has been the purchasing decisions of India. India grows significant areas of wheat and rice. Weather dependant, India is capable of using 42 million tonnes of urea annually, and importing 17 million tonnes in the process.

When the Indian government buys fertiliser it does so in large volumes, and this bumps the world price significantly.

Presently India is out of the market and it's a good time to buy nitrogen. Thankfully APW and F1 Geelong prices are sitting at Decile 9.5, so topdressing light country and cereal-on-cereal is an easy decision.

The current global urea price (\$US) is actually at Decile 1.5 for the 2010 + period, and Decile 4 for the 2000 + period



Need nitrogen in a hurry?

Brett has urea and urea/SOA 70:30 ready to go at Murray Downs.

Consider the 30 day rain forecast, and plan to get in front of the next shower



FYI:

DAP/MAP pricing is on a well-defined upward trend. Taking a position for next year could be rewarding

