



**Agronomy News November 2018**

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**Harvest is near**

We are on the verge of tackling a very low yield grain harvest. Thankfully it's been a cool spring so grain size is good

Hay crops from frosted wheat are coming in as low as 1.0-1.5t/ha, and the better crops 2.0-2.5t/ha. The grazing industries further north will remain eager buyers of all hay types until a series of rains puts a wedge of feed in front of them

Grain prices are in the highest percentile, a reliable indicator to sell. Barley is going to yield very well on sandhills, yet be well under 1.0t/ha on heavy clay flats.

As we are sitting on the chaser bin tractor or the header we can start to think about 2019. Some paddocks may not have needed in crop sprays, but we must definitely check our records for any IMI use..

It also is likely considerable available soil nitrogen will be carried over- we can test for this and create a nutrient budget for next year

Have a safe harvest.....

**New wheat varieties**

This spring has seen the release of two wheat varieties; from Intergrain comes *Vixen*, a conventional AH wheat, and **Sherriff CL Plus** is a Clearfield APW wheat. Earlier in the year AGT released *Razor CL Plus*, an early maturity

*Vixen* yielded very well at the Ultima NVT site in 2017, a close second to *Scepter*. The lack of CCN resistance will probably limit the take up of *Vixen* though.

Sherriff CL Plus has shown small but consistent yield advantages over *Kord CL* over a range of yields, but again the lack of CCN resistance is a watch out.

At the Kyalite NVT site last year **Razor CL Plus** outyielded *Kord CL plus* by 6%, although statistically they were the same.

A summary of the new varieties (bold) versus current equivalent varieties.

Variety	Company	Grain quality	Maturity	Stripe Rust	YLS	CCN
<b>Vixen</b>	Intergrain	AH	Early-Mid	MR-MS	MR-MS	MSS
Scepter	AGT	AH	Early-Mid	MR	MR-MS	MR-MS
Beckom	AGT	AH	Mid	MR-MS	MSS	R
<b>Sherriff CL Plus</b>	Intergrain	APW	Mid-Late	MS-S	MR-MS	MS
<b>Razor CL Plus</b>	AGT	ASW	Early	MS	MS-S	MR
Kord CL Plus	AGT	AH	Early-Mid	MR-MS	MS	MR

**PEARSONS**

Pearson's Grain and Transport  
Swan Hill Stockfeeds

### What do we grow next year?

It might be a bit premature to predict commodity markets, however we can certainly recognize rotational requirements and we must be very mindful of herbicide residues when allocating crop types to paddocks.

**Wheat:** There is enough stem frost in Kord CL this year to minimise, but probably not drop entirely the area of this variety. At the Kyalite NVT in 2017 Razor CL was a shade in front of Kord CL, but not statistically significant. Scepter is one of the most reliable conventional wheat varieties- adaptable to light sands. Given the impact frost has had this year, we will have to consider including a mid-maturity wheat such as Beckom, or a mid-late such as Cutlass and Trojan for risk management of low elevation paddocks.

**Barley:** A classification status for RGT Planet is expected March 2019. Planet is prone to low test weights and spot form of net blotch, so the preferred malt varieties will remain Compass and Spartacus CL

**Lentils:** New crop red lentil prices are a clear signal to store. On the up side, our drought has been seen as a modest positive market signal for Canadian red lentils, as well as the upcoming Indian election in April or May of 2019. Both factors will give support to lentil prices in 2020. Hurricane XT and PBA Hallmark (new Clearfield medium red lentil) could be seen as an opportunity where there are IMI residues.

**Canola?** Canola on top of a brown manure or chemical fallow has merit if we are cleaning up a bad brome grass paddock. However there may be a fit for Clearfield canola following a Clearfield cereal, or Roundup Ready canola to tackle Group A resistant ryegrass. The new Pacific 580CT (Clearfield /triazine) canola is sold out, but represents a different way of cropping following IMI residues, but with the option of Group C triazine in crop-chemistry. We also need that 80-100mm of stored moisture to build security into the crop.

**Chickpeas:** There has been a spike in desi chickpeas due to demand from Pakistan (no tariffs there). Usually the earlier maturing Slashers yield 200kg/ha better than the later maturing kabuli Gen 090 and Monarch, so they could be the dark horse for a chance paddock in 2019.



### Fleabane

Fleabane is becoming noticeable in medic paddocks or grazed vetch that had no simazine.

Glyphosate + 2,4-D followed by a second knock with paraquat remains our most effective control option.

When using 2,4-D we must remember to be running **very coarse** droplets at the very least. It is far safer to run ultra- or extra-coarse droplets by switching to either Teejet Turbo Teejet Induction nozzles, or Agrotop XC Turbodrop nozzles.

Some interesting trial work with paraquat by the CRT trial guys at Nhill showed that paraquat formulations have minimal surfactant (Syngenta Gramoxone 360 has none).

The results showed that paraquat always benefits from having either a non-ionic surfactant added, or an Infiltrator type oil/surfactant.

Whilst stubble shading won't be an issue for summer spraying this year, water rates of 80-100L/ha are ideal for getting best results from paraquat

**Crop topping grasses in pulses and dessicating weeds**

Pulses this year have minimal broadleaf weed issues, so crop topping in 2018 should focus on grass seed set prevention with paraquat. Here are the crop topping and dessicating options;;do note that glyphosate can't be used in lupins.

Crop	Mix	Harvest withholding	Comments
Lentils, field peas	Roundup Ultramax 0.645-1.7	7d	Lentil timing- bottom pods should rattle, top 15% of pods green but seed coat colour on the turn
	Roundup Ultramax + Sharpen + oil 1%	7d	
	Weedmaster DST 0.78-2.1	7d	
	Weedmaster ARGO 0.68-1.8	7d	
	Paraquat 0.8L/ha	7d	
	Paraquat 0.8L/ha + Sharpen + oil 1%	7d	
Lupins	Paraquat 0.8L/ha	7d	Application timing 80% leaf drop
	Paraquat 0.8L/ha + Sharpen + oil 1%	7d	
Chickpeas	Weedmaster DST 0.58-1.2 + Metsulfuron 5g/ha	7d	Chickpeas are late maturity, grasses will be seeded.
	Weedmaster ARGO 0.5-1.1 + metsulfuron 5g/ha	7d	
	Roundup Ultramax 0.646-1.7	7d	
	Roundup Ultramax + Sharpen + oil 1%	7d	
	Paraquat 0.8	7d	
	Paraquat 0.8 + Sharpen + oil1%	7d	

The later flowering and podding date of chickpeas means grasses will have set seed- however we can dessicate fleshy weeds such as prickly lettuce and whip thistle with Roundup Ultramax and Sharpen.

**Dessicating feed barley**

This harvest is the last year for the APVMA permit for use of Weedmaster DST and Weedmaster ARGO for pre-harvest application for crop and weed dessication in feed barley.

If you think you can supply the malt market, do not consider this treatment, but it very much suits dessicating volunteer wheat in barley crops destined for the feed bin.

Timing is very important- hard dough (28% moisture), with particular attention to late tillers

Rates: DST 2.0L/ha, ARGO 1.7L/ha

Application technique: Coarse droplet spray quality, 80L/ha water rate

Withholding period 7 days



**Two new faba bean varieties**

Two new faba bean varieties from Seednet were recently announced by Jason Brand at the Southern Pulse Agronomy field walks.

**PBA Marne** is the pick of beans for low rainfall districts- a good 6% higher than Fiesta VF in the sub 2.5t/ha bracket

Variety	Maturity	Asco Pathotype 1	Choc spot	Rust
PBA Marne	Early-mid	MR/R	S	MR
PBA Bendoc	Early-mid	MR/R	S	S

Also of interest is **PBA Bendoc**, an imidazolinone tolerant bean, giving us tolerance to soil residues of Intervix and Midas. The trait also shows reduced sensitivity to SU herbicide residues

The pedigree of PBA Bendoc involves a herbicide tolerant selection from the current Nura and the high yielding line Samira.



PBA Marne has a beige seed colour popular in the Middle East markets, but with a percentage of white hilum (stripe) rather than black



**Grain storage considerations**

Just a quick reminder that dichlorvos is no longer available for disinfesting silos and grain sheds. Diatomaceous earth dust can be quickly applied with a compressor and Blowvac gun from either the top of the silo or ground level. The rate is 2g per square metre of surface area, or approximately 0.6kg for 224 tonne of storage.

Grain protectants: **K-Obiol** from Bayer is a logical choice for treating grain going in to unsealed storages which are unsuitable for later treatment with phosphine. K-Obiol is registered for all cereals including malt barley. A 5L pack treats 250 tonnes. A short online user's course applies. Application accuracy and record keeping is important as the grain should only be treated once. Visit [k-obiol.com.au](http://k-obiol.com.au)

**Conserve Plus** is an ideal rotation tool for K-Obiol as it contains the novel active *spinosad*. To control rice weevil mix with Reldan (wheat, feed barley) or Fenitrothion (malt barley) at label rates.

