

Agronomy news August 2019

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Weather report

We always expect variation in rainfall, and for 2019 the local district is sitting accordingly-

April-July (31/7) rainfalls (mm):

**Swan Hill 113.6 Ultima 128.7 Cocamba 92.3
 Balranald 83.9 Lake Boga 139.8 Mallan 91.4**

Indicators (21/7):

SOI -11.9, IOD +0.46 Spring ENSO outlook: NEUTRAL

Fungicide requirements for pulses

Fungicide use for pulse crops will vary according to species and variety.

Chickpeas always require regular coverage for ascochyta- a failure to do so results in leaf area losses and grain staining. For this reason in high pressure years **Aviator Xpro** is useful for extended duration of protection for asco.

With lentils it is a slightly different programme. We can be somewhat relaxed with Jumbo 2, which is pretty much bomb proof with a single fungicide application prior to canopy closure for *botrytis*.

The new PBA **Hallmark XT** (Clearfield) has improved botrytis resistance compared to Hurricane, but is still worthy of botrytis protection.

Hurricane usually needs a late fungicide prior to podding for asco in wetter springs- talk to us about foliar disease monitoring.

	Asco Foliar	Asco Pod/grain	Botrytis
Hurricane XT	MR	RMR	MRMS
Hallmark XT	MR	MR	RMR
Jumbo 2	R	R	RMR
Bolt	MR	RMR	S
Slasher	MS	S	S
Genesis 090	MS*	S*	MS
Volga	MS	MS	S
Timok	MS	MS	S
Wharton	Blackspot MS	Bacterial blight S	P Mildew R
Twilight	Blackspot MS	Bacterial Blight S	P Mildew S

*Gen 090 can have lower ratings in some Victorian districts

Hurricane is now considered MRMS for asco in South Australia

Grazing pulse stubbles

If you are in the lamb job, consider using Captan (current permit) instead of chloro due to a much shorter Export Slaughter Interval:

	WHP (H, G)	Export Slaughter Interval (days on new feed)
Chlorothalonil	14 days (H,G)	63 days
Captan (PER81406)	14	7 days
Carbendazim	28d (H,G)	-

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Fallows and brown manures

The ideal timing for commencement of a long chemical fallow was always July for maximising moisture retention. For green manures the timing is geared around allowing a certain amount of legume biomass production to also generate nitrogen, and the return of organic matter to the soil. The peak nitrogen accumulation is when the vetch or peas have reached mid flowering, however the soil moisture profile is reduced.

It is important to mix 2,4-D or oxyfluorfen with glyphosate to control thistles on fallows to prevent aphid build up. For terminating vetch or pea brown manures the options are:

Glyphosate + dicamba

Glyphosate + metsulfuron 7g/ha + 2,4-D IPA (some residual for caltrop and heliotrope; 9 month plantback for oats, legumes and non-Clearfield canola)

Export and domestic feedlot wheat straw and fungicides

An interesting but important side story to chemical use on crops is the Export Slaughter Interval (ESI). The grazing withholding period is applicable only to stock slaughtered for the domestic market. Some meat export markets have different standards, so not only does the withholding period need to be met after application, the ESI must be met as well.

This makes it pretty much impossible for export straw people to sell and export cereal straw treated with certain fungicides.

A local feed-lotter could potentially use straw treated with fungicides with an ESI, but they would need to feed "clean" straw in the ration for the ESI period. We must be considerate in that feed-lotters are pretty much geared to export, and the relevant Quality Assurance programme;

Fungicide	Grain Harvest WHP	Grazing WHP	ESI
Tebuconazole	35 days	14	NA
Propiconazole	28	7	NA
Epoxiconazole	42	42	3 days
Opera	Nil	21	3 days
Radial	42	42	7 days
Prosaro	35	14	Not determined
Amistar XTRA	14	14	7 days

There has been some resistance from feedlotters and exporters buying straw from crops treated with epoxiconazole for example. Epoxy is a very handy stripe and leaf rust product, with notable curative activity. If you are a straw seller, it may be prudent to lean on early applications of tebuconazole for stripe rust control on susceptible wheats such as Cobra (MSS), Scout (MS), Scepter (MSS) and Razor (MS)

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SHSF Fungicide Supply

This year is looking to be ideal growing conditions for our dryland farmers with significant rains dropping in most parts of our region. With that also brings the requirement for foliar fungicide sprays, which must be applied as early as necessary to minimise the spread of the disease. Additional sprays are required if the weather conditions continue to favour the disease. Fungicides give protection for around 2–3 weeks and with any new growth after fungicide is applied is not protected. In periods of rapid growth and intense rain (50 mm over several days) the protection period will reduce to 7–14 days.

This year fungicide products are at a good supply, coming off a dryer season last year, suppliers are sitting on excess stock for this coming season, which means great deals are on offer that will be passed onto the growers. However, with favourable conditions continuing supply can become short. At Swan Hill Stockfeeds we have a good supply of product at competitive prices and packages in, Carbendazim, Chlorothalonil, Mancozeb, Tebuconazole and Propiconazole.

If you are requiring product for this season give Tore a call on 0438 324 591.



Late nitrogen for cereals

Most Spartacus barley crops (fast vegetative period) have hit first node and the start of stem elongation. Nitrogen at this stage will not increase tiller number, but will assist tiller survival and lift grain protein. The stem elongation phase has the highest nitrogen requirement (2-3kgN/day). Wheat can utilise nitrogen later due to increased leaf area on secondary tillers, and especially increased flag leaf size on the mainstem

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Spartacus CL, Planet and net blotch

With ongoing rains, we are going to see a reinfection period for *spot form of net blotch* in Spartacus CL and Planet barley. For districts that have had over 100mm of GSR we project yield in excess of 3.0t/ha if we receive 50mm between August and September combined. To protect this yield, and also protect grain size we will need a second application of propiconazole. Most Spartacus is now hitting the second node stage, so this job can proceed any time now until prior to flag leaf emergence.

Compass is rated MSS, and is showing lesser symptoms.



Russian wheat aphid

There are only a few instances of RWA in wheat or barley, and only in paddocks that have not had imidacloprid seed protection. Should we observe plants, or clusters of plants with the conspicuous white streaking, the first action is ***do nothing***.

August is the sprinter month, where the warmer temperatures *may* assist rapid reproduction. We also know that beneficial predators including lacewing bugs and winged parasitic wasps can also keep RWA numbers in check.

We always monitor these patches every 7 days, and note the number of tillers infested and number of aphids per tiller. The RWA numbers can actually diminish, but the streaky leaves remain.

Spraying with chlorpyrifos is only justified if 10% of tillers are infested and predation is seen to be not keeping up

Mallee Chemical Control Area comes into effect

Just a quick reminder that the Mallee CCA comes into effect from August 1 to April 30. The CCA prevents the use of ester-based formulations of MCPA and 2,4-D. For late weed clean ups there are other options, including amine formulations of MCPA and 2,4-D

We must also remember the new **national rules** for applying 2,4-D. One key part is that the minimum droplet size for applying 2,4-D is *very coarse* up to the end of September. From October 1 the minimum droplet size is *extra coarse* to *ultra coarse*. Come in and talk to us for a refresher about the label changes.

Late weed clean ups in cereals

Turnips, mustard and skeleton weed: In NSW we can use 2,4-D at any rate from the first node stage. In Victoria we can start earlier with medium rates at the two-tiller stage and go up to full label rates at first node.

Wild radish: full rates of 2,4-D are effective if the population is not phenoxy tolerant or resistant. Broadstrike + MCPA 750 works well again if the population is not tolerant or resistant to Group I or Group B. This mix has short plant back periods

Wild radish flowering: Ken-Gran + Anti-Evap, or Ken-Gran + Anti-Evap + MCPA 750 works brilliantly if the population is not Group B tolerant or resistant. Long plant backs apply with Ken-Gran for pulses and non-Clearfield canola.

2,4-D use

Just a quick reminder we can still use 2,4-D products in cereal crops in the states of NSW and Victoria provided we observe application rules regarding droplet size and calendar dates:

16/4 to 2/10 Coarse (C) to very coarse (VC) Wind speed 3-15km/hr

3/10-15/4 Extra coarse (XC) to Ultra Coarse (UC) Wind speed 3-15km/hr

Obviously by the start of October we have head emergence and 2,4-D use will have stopped prior to booting.

We always observe application rules, especially spraying technique and weather conditions. With all this in mind, we are responsible for any off-target implications- crop damage and contamination of product. At the time of writing (24/7) there are early fruit trees in flower. White grapes are expected to budburst late August.

Sensitive areas

Cereal crops adjacent to horticulture always pose some slight risk. We often use Colt/ Nimble as it non-volatile, non-systemic and has registration for use in vineyards. Special application techniques apply, so talk to us about this low risk option.

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."

— Groucho Marx

Technical and product supply

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