



## Agronomy News November 2019

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### Weather report

Growing season rainfall has been generally down on the long-term average

**April- September GSR:** Swan Hill 138.8mm Ultima 159.6mm  
Lalbert 163.1mm Yarraby 142.4mm Cocamba 112.7mm  
Winnambool 95.8mm Annuello 133.7mm Balranald 105.7mm

We had respite with September temperatures with a monthly mean of 21.8 (measured at Ouyen), versus a long term mean of 20.3 and highest monthly mean of 24.5. The real value was only 2 days in September making in to 30 degrees, so no shock events occurred.

Frosts were significant; At Swan Hill there were 7 events less than 1C in August including -1.8 on 23/8. In September there were 5 events less than 1C, including -1.4 on 11/9.

Lentils and vetch suffered most from the frosts, and some wheat crops, especially moisture stressed flats

### Saving seed this year

We must remain vigilant to only retain high quality seed for next year- the main parameters are low moisture and low temperature at the time of harvest.

Identification- use cattle ear tags and paint pens to label silos for variety and herbicide tolerance status.

Lupins treated with foliar *manganese* products such as the SHSF sandhill and limestone blend tend to produce higher quality seed less prone to splitting when handled.

### Rotate your grain protectant product

Resistance in grain storage insects is more common than first thought; the **sawtoothed grain beetle** is widely resistant to fenitrothion and Reldan. The **lesser grain borer** is showing resistance to BRM.

Examples of rotating newer chemistry include; use of **Conserve Plus** for two years, followed by one year of **K-Obiol**. Another valid rotation is two years of Conserve Plus, then two years of K-Obiol.

Both of these products are protectants, and have no eradicator activity. For grain storage structural clean-ups, remember to use diatomaceous earth prior to filling.



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## New cereal varieties for 2020

Wheat **Catapult** tested as RAC 2484 (AGT) – a conventional Mace derivative that can be best described as “longer maturity Scepter”. AH grain quality with improved stripe rust resistance

	Stem rust	Stripe Rust	YLS	CCN
Catapult	MR	MRMS	MRMS	MR
Scepter	MRMS	MSS	MRMS	MRMS

Catapult is an ideal wheat on wheat variety and very suitable for dry sowing in April as a replacement for Cutlass, Yitpi and Trojan. Trojan has broken down for stripe rust resistance.

### Barley

**Leabrook (Seednet)** is a mid-early maturity Compass replacement.

Leabrook has slightly higher plump grain (>2.5mm) and less screenings (<2.2mm). We also see less lodging when yields are 3.0-4.0t/ha

Hopefully the grain samples submitted to Malt Australia after harvest this year go well and Leabrook passes Stage 2 accreditation in March 2020.

Seed of Leabrook is in good supply and available for purchase in 2020.

**IGB 1705T** is the IMI Spartacus CL replacement with improved SFNB resistance is currently in trials and due for release in 2021

### Oats:

**King Bale (Intergrain, tested as GIA 1710)** is the IMI tolerant Wintaroo derivative was released in SA this spring. An extra year is needed for full commercial release of King Bale.

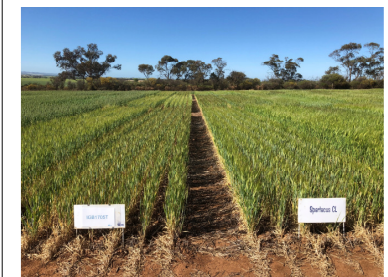
Maturity is the same as Wintaroo (mid), and same sensitivity to leaf and stem rust.

A permit is being sought by Nufarm for the use of Sentry herbicide IBS before commercialisation. Limited seed is being distributed to seed bulking partners such as SPS Auswest (formerly Superior Seeds) and Baker Seeds. Broad commercial seed release will hopefully be 2021 if this years' herbicide trial work goes through.



Compass (foreground); Leabrook (back)

IGB 1705 (left) Spartacus CL (right)



**King Bale** (Clearfield) has similar maturity and disease reaction to Wintaroo



**New pulse varieties for 2020**



**PBA Hallmark** (right) shows higher canopy and pod height than Hurricane, and good vigour on sandy ground



**PBA Highland**

Upright canopy for ease of harvest and less losses



**PBA Royal**

Field trials are showing Royal is not as sensitive to the "Curyo strain" asco that affects Gen 090 and Slasher

Comedian Steven Wright:

"There is a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot"

Bill Clinton:

"Being president is like running a cemetery: you've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening"

**Which medium red Clearfield lentil?**

PBA Hallmark has impressed this year with its better vigour and standability at harvest compared to Hurricane. With the recent release of PBA Highland we are spoilt for choices. Both have Bolt in their parentage, which offers fantastic canopy and upright standability.

All three are equally sensitive to metribuzin. Highland with its earlier flowering time seems to yield more consistently in the Mallee. Hallmark performs better in longer seasons and in the Wimmera.

Final crop maturity (and harvest) of Highland is earlier than Hurricane and Hallmark.

Highland may have a yield reliability edge north of Lalbert. Either way, it is time to replace Hurricane, as its ascochyta blight resistance in South Australia has broken down

	Start of flowering	Maturity	AB	BGM	Mallee yield (%)
<b>Highland</b>	Early	Early mid	MR	MRMS	110
<b>Hallmark</b>	Mid	Mid	MR	RMR	103
<b>Hurricane</b>	Mid	Mid	MR	MRMS	100

**PBA Royal** (Seednet) is the replacement for the Genesis 090 kabuli chickpea. Yields are comparable between Royal and Gen 090 up to 1.5t/ha, and beyond 1.5t/ha environments Royal shows a consistent advantage. In all environments Royal produces a much higher proportion of 8mm seeds than Gen 090, and will reflect favourably in the marketing payment schedule.

Royal has the same sensitivity (MS) to ascochyta blight as Gen 090, and requires similar pre-rain event coverage with chlorothalonil. Some interesting work by Jason Brand (DPI) in Victoria is showing good results from post infection applications of **Aviator XPRO** and **Veritas**

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### **Banker CL canola- the sandy soil specialist**

Some valuable feedback about **Banker CL** (Heritage/ Barenbrug) Clearfield canola. It has shown superior vigour and ground coverage on light ground in both the wet years of 2016 and dry years of 2018 and 2019. The uniformity of growth over sandhills has been reported at Piangil West and Chillingollah.

Incidentally, **Banker CL** is a big game performer; it topped the NVT trials at Ultima, Hopetoun, Birchip and Charlton in 2016.



### **Summer weed control tips:**

Our yields are very much attributable to timely and effective summer weed control, so here are some very useful tips to get best results:

Wheeltracks: Lower weed control levels in our wheeltracks are an ongoing problem. The issue is worse when conditions are drying and stubble levels are lower. However, we can do various things to improve this: 1. Slow down to 15-18km/hr, 2. Fit large mudflaps behind the wheels of trailed sprayers, 3. Fit larger nozzles behind the wheels, 4. Increase sulphate of ammonia rates, 5. Increasing water rates to 80L/ha. The guys moving to dedicated wheeltracks and chaffining seem to have far less dust also. Another variation on point 3 is to replace the 50cm spacing nozzles behind the wheels with 25 cm spacing to increase deposition

Sowthistle: a problem in pulse crops this year. If sowthistle has not been desiccated with **Sharpen** and paraquat, we expect it to reshoot from the tap root. We must remember that 2,4-D lowers the performance of glyphosate on sowthistle, so dicamba is a preferred mix partner.

2,4-D use: 2,4-D is still an essential tool for skeleton weed, roly polys, and as a component of the first knock for fleabane. The new regulations for 2,4-D use focus on droplet size/ nozzle selection, drift management, monitoring inversion layers and record keeping.

Fallow control adjacent to or near horticulture: For peace of mind we often use different tactics when operating close to horticultural crops. **Sledge** (a group G spike) plus glyphosate is effective on small melons and roly poly. Sprayseed is often used as a barrier spray to create a safer option as a buffer. Talk to us at SHSF about designing a safer spray programme.

**Kombo 950** is becoming more popular as a convenient one product alternative to LI700 + AMS. The AMS component in Kombo is screened to remove coarse particles to make solubilising very easy. The carboxylic acid component is a potent surfactant, and also contributes to calcium and magnesium neutralisation



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### **Bulk up Timok vetch**

Vetch has become a highly profitable crop in it's own right as a premium hay going into the dairy and red meat industries.

Now is a good time to order fresh **Timok** vetch to replace older, less productive varieties. Long term data from the National Vetch Breeding programme has shown Timok outyields Rasina by 11%, Morava by 19% and Blanchefleur by 24% for dry matter production. Timok is noticeably faster in winter growth than the older varieties, which also suits sheep and lamb producers.

A crop of Timok vetch and Wallaroo oats for silage in August

### **RGT Planet barley**

Just a reminder that RGT Planet barley achieved MALT status back in March this year. Planet has the highest yield potential of all the malt varieties, although it is prone to screenings in tougher seasons. Planet is surprisingly resistant to CCN, but requires management for both forms of net blotch

### **Getting the best out of triclopyr**

For melon control its always best to go in early- melons with runners tend to have more survivors. With triclopyr and glyphosate mixes use only seed-based oils as adjuvants, not mineral oils. Mineral oils tend to antagonise glyphosate and we get lesser results on stink grass and witch grass.

AMS- always use AMS with *any* glyphosate-based mix, irrespective of the water quality. The ammonium component speeds up ion (-hydrogen) exchange in the cells of the weeds, so the plant has less time to break down/ sequester the glyphosate. Also, our wheeltracking is greatly improved with AMS. We have good stocks of quality technical grade AMS for around \$0.43/100L. For those with filling stations rather than hoppers we have liquid AMS called **AAAMs** for around \$1.60/100L.

Double knocking- boomspray. Following our first application with a paraquat + Bio-Aid has cleaned up wheeltracks and finished off any melon survivors.

Double knock- Optical spot spraying- there have been great results from triclopyr + paraquat + amitrole + wetter when there are hard to kill weeds such as fleabane and sow thistle. We have some really great value **Imtrade** amitrole at the moment, but be quick to snap up this line.

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